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MVA's reserve fund for own building depleted

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Over \$3 million that the Marianas Visitors Authority has been keeping in a reserve fund so it could build its own permanent building has now been depleted.

See MVA on Page 4

All-clear declared

By **MARC A. VENUS**
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REPORTER

The all-clear was declared for Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam, soon after Tropical Storm Kammuri left the region early yesterday morning. Tropical Storm Condition I was cancelled at 11am; this means tropical storm con-

ditions are no longer expected.

Although government offices were expected to reopen after 12pm yesterday, they were later declared closed for the rest of the day, mainly due to the heavy rainfall throughout the early morning hours that could cause flash flooding in low-lying areas. Govern-

See ALL-CLEAR on Page 4

Tourists in raincoats cross a street in Garapan yesterday as they brave the rain from Tropical Storm Kammuri.

IVA MAURIN



Torres to join Skymark flight from Tokyo

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios was named acting governor yesterday, with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres heading to Japan to lead the CNMI delegation that will be aboard a Skymark Airlines flight that will

See TORRES on Page 4

Admin leave for govt employees tomorrow

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

CNMI government employees have been authorized to apply for administrative leave tomorrow, Nov. 29, 2019.

In a memorandum dated Nov. 26, 2019, that

See ADMIN on Page 4

HPO gets \$6M Yutu aid from NPS. PAGE 2
FAC remains the same in December. PAGE 8

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Let Saipan magician Neil "The Island Showman" Fama entertain you this holiday season.

PAGE 15



WORLD

A powerful magnitude-6.4 pre-dawn earthquake in Albania has killed 21.

PAGE 18



LIFE & STYLE

The AARP has released its nominations for its annual Movies for Grownups awards.

PAGE 20



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Local

HPO gets \$6M Yutu aid from NPS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Historic Preservation Office under the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs has been awarded \$6 million in grant funding by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service to repair historic resources in the Commonwealth that were impacted in 2018 by Super Typhoon Yutu.

This is part of \$47.8 million in emergency supplemental assistance grants that NPS is releasing nationwide for the recovery and repair of historic resources in areas that were also impacted in 2018 by hurricanes Florence and Michael.

Communities in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, the Northern Mariana Is-

lands, South Carolina, and Virginia will receive funding for various historic preservation projects related to hurricane and typhoon recovery efforts.

"The Department of the Interior is committed to assisting impacted communities with recovery efforts as they work to repair and preserve significant historic resources," said Interior Secretary David Bernhardt. "The grant funding,

which is derived from federal oil leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, allows us to safeguard these unique historic places so they may endure for future generations."

"Preserving historic resources is a critical component in the National Park Service's mission to share the story of our nation," said National Park Service deputy director David Vela. "These grants will provide assistance to many communities affected by the intense storms of 2018, so they can repair damaged historic properties and buildings."

As national emergencies arise, Congress may appropriate funding from the Historic Preservation Fund to provide

relief for historic preservation projects in areas impacted by natural disasters. The HPF uses revenue from federal oil leases on the Outer Continental Shelf to provide assistance for a broad range of preservation projects without expending tax dollars.

The grants will support repair and recovery of properties listed in, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. As specified under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, funding will also support necessary compliance activities and survey of historic resources to determine eligibility and the degree of damage, as

well as proper administration of the grants.

The National Park Service will work closely with the states to administer these grants. The funding is authorized by Public Law 116-20 implemented to provide disaster assistance related to damages during Hurricanes Florence and Michael and Typhoon Yutu.

The Historic Preservation Fund was established in 1977 as the primary source of funding to implement the Federal Preservation Partnership program. Annual grants are made to states, Tribes, and local governments under the National Historic Preservation Act. **(PR)**

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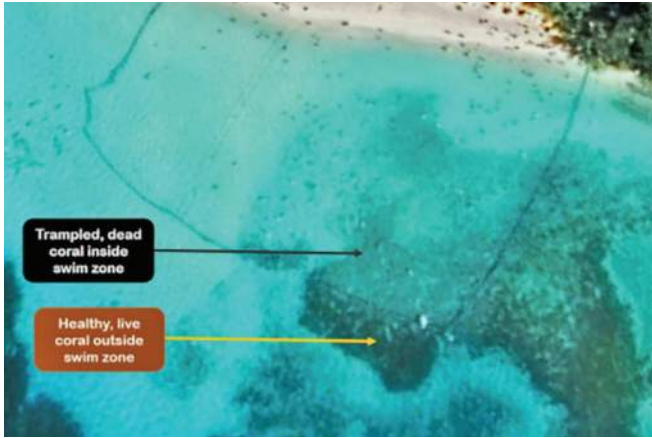


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Afraid of catastrophic flooding? Let's keep our corals healthy.

Corals provide a buffer against waves, storms, and floods, helping prevent erosion, property damage, and deaths. Saipan's coral reef systems, particularly the barrier and fringing reefs along the west side of the island, are the key to preventing catastrophic flooding under storm scenarios.

"This means keeping our coral as healthy as possible," said Robbie Greene, coastal management specialist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In many cases, even after prolonged exposure to thermal stress, corals can still recover from bleaching. However, they can only do this if they are healthy and with the community's help. That can be done now with two actions: reducing the amount of pollutant loads and sediment that get dumped into the reefs during heavy rains and putting an end to tourist behaviors that damage corals.

Preventing sediments

"Whenever the stormwater drainages in Garapan are released into the [Saipan] Lagoon, we are pouring gasoline on the fire," Greene said.

"The sediment plumes we see reaching far out into the lagoon, from San Roque all the way down to Sugar Dock after a heavy rainfall, create stress on the reef, and the nutrient loading that accompanies some of that runoff can promote harmful algal growth on top of it all," he added.

About 10 years ago, the CNMI government contracted out the development of a Saipan Lagoon Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Plan, and the No. 1 recommendation to improve lagoon and reef health was the creation of large-scale stormwater ponding basins at key points in the Garapan/Tapochau Watershed.

The Saipan Lagoon Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Plan, released in September 2013, considered the construction of the basins as the most cost-effective and efficient management measure to efficiently collect the majority of sediment, nutrient, and contaminant laden runoff that would otherwise become directly washed into the lagoon.

CONTRIBUTED IMAGE
Google Earth (Digital Globe) Satellite Imagery shows that corals outside the Managaha Swim Zone are relatively healthy compared to within the swim zone ropes, where they are grey and dead.

The preferred alternative in the SLAERP was to use the area where the old cockfighting arena was on Middle Road as a massive retention and filtration area, diverting significant accumulations of stormwater and sediment into the basin.

"The space is now a 'business hotel' and parking lot. We ask for advice and then ignore it, and that needs to stop," Greene said.

Changing tourist behaviors

The direct damage that tourists are doing to the CNMI reefs is astounding.

A look at a Google Earth image of the Managaha Swim Zone reveals an area that is grey and dead in contrast to corals looking relatively healthy just inches outside the roped swim zone.

"All of this means that folks in decision-making positions will need to make some unpopular decisions. We need a shift in perspective," Greene suggests.

Greene further explained that, while in the near-term, tourists want to touch corals and carve their names underwater on the Grotto substrate, in the long-term though, they will not come to the islands if there is no living coral left.

Also, in the near-term, investors want to invest directly along the shoreline, and in areas where supporting infrastructure is threatened by sea level rise and future storms.

"It's not popular to dissuade investment," Greene said, "but ultimately we compromise our economic future and the Commonwealth's future when we knowingly grow the physical and economic landscape directly into harm's path."

In the CNMI, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Division of Coastal Resource Management implements the Coral Reef Initiative, a cross-agency initiative to protect and preserve the islands' coral reefs, as well as the resources associated with those habitats. *(Iva Maurin)*

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Armed robbery in Kagman

An individual came face to face with an armed robber yesterday at his home in Kagman.

The victim had gone home when he saw that the door to

his home had been damaged. When he went inside, that's when he saw the perpetrator, who appeared armed with a knife. The victim picked up an

unspecified weapon, prompting the perpetrator to flee on foot.

The perpetrator was described as wearing a black

shirt and a pair of black shorts, plus a cap. The victim said the perpetrator also had tattoos on his arms and was carrying a grey Nike duffle bag.

The victim called the Department of Public Safety to report the incident. Officers

arrived at the scene and canvassed the area in search of the perpetrator. "I am lucky to have walked away with my life," the victim said.

DPS spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan could not provide more details about the case

as offices were closed due to Tropical Storm Kammuri, but said the case is ongoing.

If you have any information about this case, call 911 or call the CNMI Crime Stoppers to remain anonymous at (670) 234-7272. *(Marc A. Venus)*

MVA wins int'l tourism communication awards

For its work promoting the Marianas, the Marianas Visitors Authority garnered two recognitions at the 2019 International Tourism Communication Awards on Saturday,

Nov. 23, in Bo'ao, Hainan Province, China.

MVA received awards for Festival Event of the Year for the 2019 Saipan Marathon and Tourism Image of the

Year for the new social media image Mari and Ana.

"The International Tourism Communication Award, cofounded by Communication University of China and

Global Tourism Communication Creative Alliance, is a professional award recognizing promotional results of cultural tourism, tourism activities and related mar-

keting activities, and the MVA is honored to have received two recognitions for our work this year," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "We are grateful for the creative marketing being initiated by our China office, and we expect more awareness of our annual signature event Saipan Marathon and the brand Marianas through these two awards."

The Festival Event of the Year award is presented to iconic tourism events held in domestic and outbound destinations with outstanding marketing results. To promote the event, the MVA carried out cross-platform, cross-brand and cross-field integrated promotions. The number of runners from

China has increased for three consecutive years, setting a new record with nearly 300 participants this year and becoming the biggest outbound source market for the event.

The Tourism Image of the Year award is presented to iconic new public images launched by tourism organizations, including slogans, logos, mascots, etc. The characters Mari and Ana, a boy and girl with Chamorro and Carolinian attire, were launched in the Chinese market to enhance the brand impression and peculiarity of the Marianas, as well as to promoting the indigenous cultures of the destination. The MVA developed well-received WeChat emojis and collaterals based on the characters. *(MVA)*

ALL-CLEAR

From Page 1

ment workers were advised to tend to their homes and families as safety remains the top priority.

Public School System classes remained cancelled yesterday.

The Northern Marianas College initially cancelled its morning classes but proceeded to later cancel its evening classes and keep its offices closed.

The CNMI Judiciary reopened yesterday from 1:30pm to 4:30pm. It was closed in the

morning due to the threat of Tropical Storm Kammuri.

Both Guam and Saipan offices of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services were closed yesterday and a USCIS advisory stated that both offices will remain closed until the all-clear is sounded.

Those who have interview or biometric appointments scheduled will be notified of new appointment dates.

For updates on USCIS office status, please visit the USCIS office closings page of the USCIS website, www.uscis.gov.

The University of Guam campus re-opened at 1pm yesterday afternoon. All regu-

larly scheduled classes resumed at 2pm.

Bank of Hawaii also said that all of its West Pacific branches were open yesterday.

A flash flood watch remains, which means that conditions may develop that lead to flash flooding.

Much of yesterday morning was characterized by cloudy skies and constant rain but flooding and rainfall slowed by Wednesday evening.

The hazardous seas warning remains in place on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota remains until 6am today. This means combined seas of 13 to 15 feet will decrease to between 11 to 13 feet

Thursday, and seas are expected to remain hazardous through the weekend. East to southeast winds of up to 23 to 34 miles per hour hit the CNMI through Wednesday night. These conditions will produce dangerous conditions for vessels of all sizes, and vessels are advised to remain in port until seas and winds subside.

The U.S. Coast Guard has downgraded its declaration for CNMI seaports to Port Heavy Weather Condition Whiskey, which means tropical storm conditions are cleared and ports are open to all commercial vessel traffic and cargo operations.

TORRES

From Page 1

make its inaugural flight to the CNMI this Friday.

In a memorandum yesterday, the governor said he will be out of the CNMI on official business beginning yesterday, Nov. 27, 2019, through Nov. 29, 2019.

The memorandum further noted that Palacios would be acting governor until his return.

According to Torres' chief of staff, Angel Demapan, the governor will be joining officials of the Marianas Visitors Authority and Commonwealth Ports Authority for Skymark Airlines Inc.' inaugural flight from Tokyo to Saipan tomorrow, kicking off its daily direct flight between the two destinations.

"Prior to takeoff at the Narita International Airport, there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the departure gate

to commemorate the first daily direct flight between Narita and Saipan after nearly 15 years," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* in a statement.

Demapan added that the return of daily Japanese flights to Saipan would help boost the Commonwealth government's efforts to revive visitor arrivals from Japan and to "further strengthen our tourism industry."

"This is a significant event that will be covered by a host of Japan-based media and attended by Japanese travel industry partners," Demapan added.

A separate press statement said that Torres would also be meeting with Japanese tourism officials.

"Japan and the Japanese tourism are very important to the Marianas. We are grateful for our friendship with Japan. The country has been a strong ally and a major trading part-

ner of the United States and the CNMI in particular. Our island heritage and cultural upbringing are influenced by Japanese culture, further solidifying the strong ties between the Marianas and Japan," the statement said.

It added that Torres and Palacios' commitment to the Japan tourism market is underscored by their consistent promotion of the Marianas with Japanese tourism officials and investors.

"This Friday is the culmination of years' worth of work to strengthen

our islands' most important industry. This administration will continue to promote visitor diversification within our tourism industry, as well as create increased economic opportunities in the form of new jobs, higher wages, and a greater standard of living for every person that calls these



Torres

ADMIN

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune received yesterday, acting governor Arnold I. Palacios announced that non-critical employees of the Commonwealth government may take an administrative leave on Friday.

Palacios noted that, even though it has been a tough year for the Commonwealth, there are still many things to

be grateful for.

"...Our recovery and resiliency as a people are reasons to be greatly thankful for," he said. "As we celebrate Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the hard work being done every day by our public service employees."

"During this critical time when our islands need it most, your dedication to service and your unwavering commitment are the reasons we are recovering swiftly.

"To all our government personnel, Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres and I thank you all for your hard work and service to our community. And as we reflect on the graces we've received this year, let us not forget those who are less fortunate than us this time of the year; use this day as a time for giving them something to be thankful for, the feeling of knowing that someone cares," Palacios said.

Palacios made the an-

islands home."

Skymark Airlines Inc., known primarily as a domestic airline, announced last Oct. 24, 2019, its plan to have regular direct international service connecting Narita, Japan and Saipan. This is the airline's first foray into the international market.

The airline's daily regular flights are scheduled to depart Tokyo, Japan at 10:15am and arrive at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at 3pm.

"Everyone in our community is looking forward to Skymark's service, and we cannot wait to fully welcome back our Japanese visitors to our beautiful islands," Torres said in a previous statement.

With Torres leaving for Japan yesterday morning, one of Palacios' first order of business was to announce yesterday that Commonwealth government offices will remain closed throughout the day yesterday.

nouncement after Torres left the CNMI for official business in Japan. In a separate memorandum, Torres appointed Palacios as acting governor since he is scheduled to return to the CNMI on Nov. 29, 2019.

Torres left for Japan to participate in the inaugural flight of Skymark Airlines Inc., which officially starts offering daily flights between Saipan and Narita, Japan tomorrow.

MVA

From Page 1

For several years now, the MVA board has been putting money aside in a reserve fund for the planned MVA building, according to MVA chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, but that funding is now down to zero.

"Unfortunately, with the downturn in our economy, we had been forced to dip into those funds," she said.

She promised, though, that one of the first things that the MVA board would do once they get back on track is to replenish that reserve fund.

MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* Tuesday that

the reserve fund had indeed been depleted, with the money used to pay off MVA's off-shore market offices.

Aldan-Pierce said they have been putting the money aside because they know that they cannot be in the San Jose/Oleai building forever. "It belongs to somebody and our lease will be running out pretty soon," Aldan-Pierce said. MVA's lease expires in 2021.

Aldan-Pierce said she has already met with Finance Secretary David Atalig and that Atalig knows that that's an account payable on their side that they still have to pay MVA for hotel occupancy tax collections that were taken and not remitted to MVA.

Aldan-Pierce said there is

no design yet for the MVA building project because they're not quite sure where it is going to be built.

When asked about the CNMI Museum board of governors' decision last March to give MVA a portion of its lot in Garapan where the MVA could build a permanent site, she said she has not seen an agreement with the CNMI Museum yet.

Aldan-Pierce said she believes that there was a consensus by the CNMI Museum board to provide some property to MVA. "But we are not exactly sure where it's [going to] be," she said, adding that nothing has been transferred to MVA yet.

One thing that she would like to see is encourage foot traffic into the museum, which she described as "very nice." She said CNMI Museum director Danny Aquino and his team have done an awesome job in sprucing up the museum and that DFS, of which she is the president, provided some of the fixtures there.

As a tourism-based economy, the CNMI needs a permanent MVA building, Aldan-Pierce said, and will save the MVA money. "It will be ours and it should be located somewhere within walking distance of the main tourism area, which is Garapan," she added.

Aldan-Pierce is not sure about how much the MVA pays for the rental for its current office, but she knows it's "really reasonable."



Aldan-Pierce



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-1 Chronicles 16:34



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Man gets 20 hours for refusing to leave ICE office lobby

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy has rendered a guilty verdict to a Chinese na-

tional who refused to comply with instructions from a federal officer to leave the lobby of the Immigration and Customs

Enforcement-Enforcement and Removal Operations Office in Gualo Rai.

The man initially sought

help from federal agents because he wanted his immigration case done and over with.

In a written order Tuesday, Kennedy concluded that the U.S. government has proven

beyond a doubt that Cheng Jin committed a misdemeanor by failing to comply with a lawful order.

Kennedy, who presided over Jin's bench trial Monday, sentenced him to 20 hours of time served in jail and ordered him to pay \$5 in court assessment.

Jin was placed on one year of supervised probation with a condition that he is not to stay within 50 feet of the Immigration Office door in Gualo Rai other than his scheduled appearance on Aug. 19, 2020, or as instructed by the Immigration Office.

Kennedy said Jin confirmed that Federal Protective Service inspector Sean Patrick White told him to leave on Oct. 24, 2019, and that he understood but disagreed with the instruction.

Kennedy said Jin confirmed that he was told that he would be arrested for failing to comply with White's instruction.

The magistrate judge found that White's directions satisfied the principles of due process, and that Jin willfully refused to comply with the inspector's directions.

Kennedy said Jin announced that he would continue to refuse to comply unless jailed or provided his requested relief.

Kennedy said it is undisputed that the incident occurred on federal property.

She said both White and Jin testified that the defendant was in the lobby of the ICE-Enforcement and Removal Operations Office in Gualo Rai and just outside the door of the office when taken into custody last Oct. 24.

Kennedy said the command to move away from the door and leave the facility property was

clear and given several times.

White testified during the trial that he told Jin to leave the building and issued him a citation ticket for blocking the entrance of the building last Oct. 3.

White testified that last Oct. 24, he ordered Jin to move away from the door at least four times during their hour-long interaction.

White testified that he asked Jin to step away from the door and away from the only walkway providing entrance to the building.

Kennedy said White testified that he was called to the Enforcement and Removal Operations office to respond to Jin because he refused to leave the office last Oct. 3 and 24.

White testified that he was the only FPS inspector tasked with patrolling many federal buildings on Saipan.

He testified that had had concerns about the security of the Enforcement and Removal Operations Office and its employees when Jin repeatedly refused to leave.

Jin went to Enforcement and Removal Operations Office on Oct. 3, 17, 23, and 24, seeking humanitarian assistance, although he was not scheduled to report until August 2020.

Jin speaks and understands limited English.

White encountered Jin at the facility last Oct. 3 and 24.

At the trial, assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe, counsel for the U.S. government, called White as a witness and presented four exhibits as evidence.

At the closing of the U.S. government's case, defense counsel Steven P. Pixley moved for Jin's acquittal, but Kennedy denied it. Pixley then called Jin to the witness stand and presented two exhibits as evidence.

According to the information, on Oct. 24, 2019, while in federal property, Jin refused to comply with a lawful direction of a federal police officer to leave the premises. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Emergency water outage yesterday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. implemented an emergency water service interruption yesterday at the areas of Lower Dandan Homestead, on Airport Road, in As Lito, portions of Kannat Tabla, Fina Sis, As Perdido and Koblerville (from St. Jude Church to ABCD Market) due to a 4-inch transmission leak on the Isley Booster 2 Station.

This transmission line provides water to the Dandan Tank. Repairs on the transmission line were expected to be done yesterday at 3:30pm.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. (*PR*)



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This Thanksgiving let us be thankful for what we have been blessed with. Thankful for the family we love, for the friends we cherish, for making it through the strongest storm yet "Super Typhoon Yutu", and the gift of faith.

*We wish you
all a very
happy and blessed
Thanksgiving
Day!*

From: The Office of
Rep. Joseph "LeePan" T. Guerrero

DOF still settling arrears

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Finance continues to tend to its fiscal obligations, some of which are carried over from fiscal year 2019, according to Finance Secretary David Atalig.

Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview over the weekend that his department continues to settle delayed obligations from fiscal year 2019 that spilled over to fiscal year 2020, including monies owed to the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Settlement Fund, the Northern Marianas College, and the Public School System, among others.

"...We went through a tough year. We are slowly coming out of it and we are hopeful that, with things coming into place...that [we will get] some more income coming in terms of taxes into the government coffers," he said.

He noted that the CNMI's current situation is looking good, with a 53-room hotel

in Chalan Kanoa that opened last week (Surfrider Hotel) and a new airline (Skymark Airlines Inc.) serving one of the top CNMI tourism markets this week.

"That's promising. So, we are looking hopeful that some of these activities will help us meet our total obligations or our total projected revenue [for the fiscal year]," he said.

Atalig noted that his department owes MVA around \$4 million to \$5 million in terms of hotel occupancy taxes; NMC is owed an estimated \$2 million, according to a previous interview; and the PSS is owed about \$745,000 after the passage of Saipan Local Law 21-10.

Atalig said he also has obligations to the CNMI Settlement Fund for annual contributions of 17% of the government's total annual revenue after deducting the minimum annual payment and Super Typhoon Yutu vendor invoices covered by the central government as well as other operational costs.

FAC remains the same in December

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp's Fuel Adjustment Charge remains at \$0.18803 per kWh for December, according to a statement from the agency yesterday.

Although there has been a slight increase in the Mean of

Platts Singapore monthly pricing from July 2019 to December 2019 as notified by Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., the increase did not equal or exceed a 4.5 percent differential of the average per gallon cost of fuel. (PR)

WISHING YOU A

*Happy
Thanksgiving!*

As we enjoy this Thanksgiving Day with our family and friends, we must give thanks to the Lord, for we have much to reflect on and be thankful for as a community. I offer my heartfelt thanks to the people of Saipan for staying united and focused on our priorities. To our partners, the CNMI Governor's Office and other CNMI government agencies, the Saipan business community, the United States Army National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, active military and their families, and our federal agency partners, thank you for your service.

David M. Apatang
Mayor of Saipan & Staff



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Opinion

Hafa Adair Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Long live Hong Kong: Elections deliver a resounding victory for pro-democracy forces

Over the centuries, repressive regimes the world over have learned the same lesson: Once accustomed to freedom and participatory democracy, people will cling to it with a grip that cannot be broken.

A heartening reminder of that fact comes from Hong Kong, where, despite the overbearing communist government in Beijing's best efforts to paint the pro-democracy resistance as illegitimate, violent revolutionaries, district council elections yielded a resounding win for the good guys (and girls).

A 25-year-old who crowdfunded his campaign took down the vice-chairman of the main pro-Beijing party. A 23-year-old reformer beat a three-time incumbent. As turnout surged, the defenders of Hong Kong's independence and special history of freedom took 17 of 18 districts, and 80% of all council seats, compared to just 30% before.

The ball is now in Beijing's court: continue to escalate its crackdown on protesters, trying to make millions of newly emboldened young people fear for their safety, or begin to make meaningful concessions to those who demand preservation of the separate system by which Hong Kong has for decades thrived.

Choosing the path of confrontation is doomed only to straighten the spines of the newly resistant. Down that road is unrest, bloodshed and economic pain.

Beijing must, must, must, must relent.

(c) 2019 New York Daily News

Hospital cost transparency is a necessary first step

Shining a spotlight on opaque hospital billing structures may not be a miracle cure for the rising cost of health care. But medical cost transparency is worth pursuing on principle, alone.

No one would buy a car without knowing the sticker price. Few would hire a house painter without getting an estimate—or several—first. Yet, hospital patients usually don't learn the cost of their medical care until after they've been treated and receive a bill.

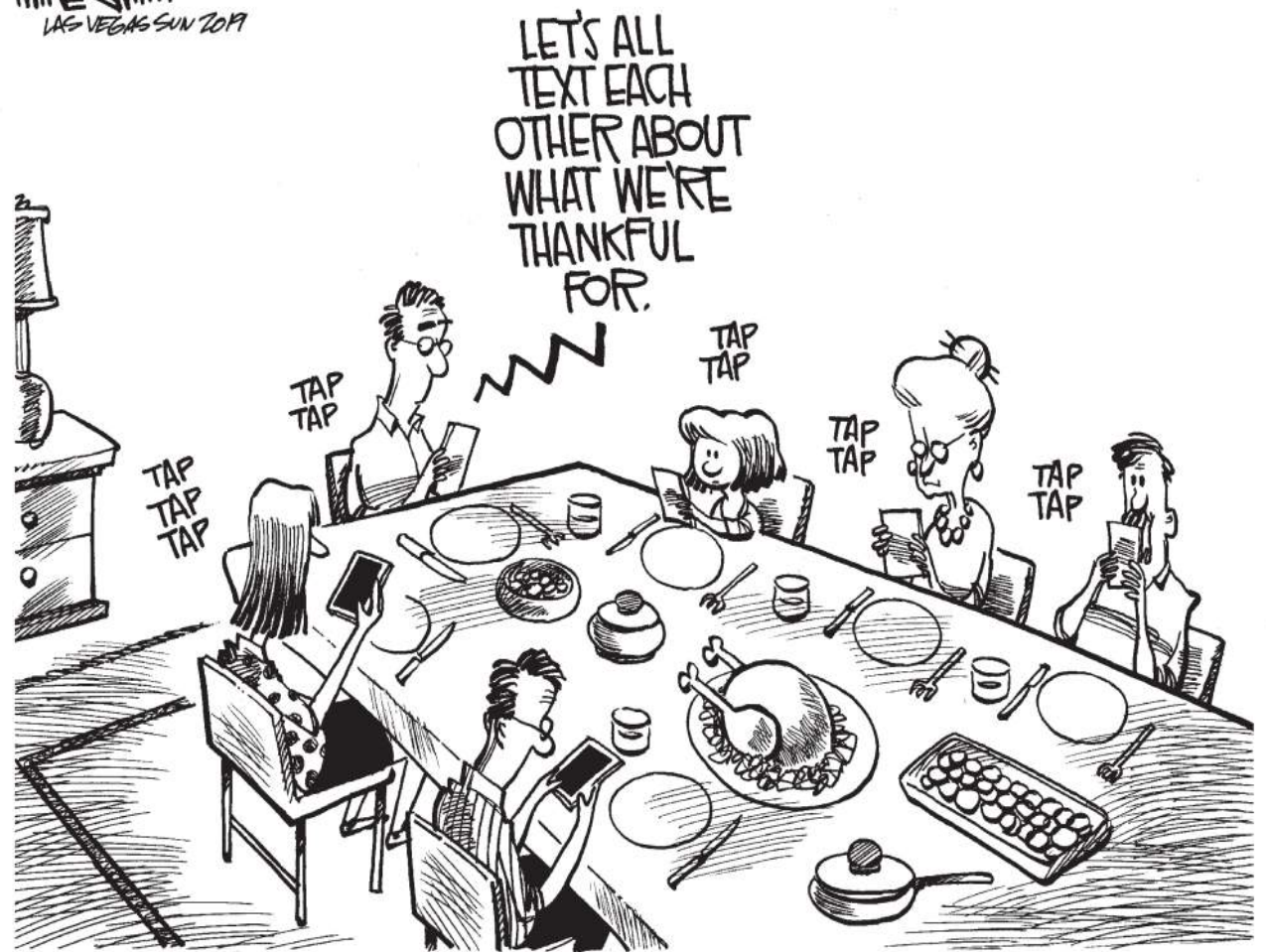
A new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services rule could change all that by demanding price transparency of every U.S. hospital. By January 2021, the federal agency will require hospitals to disclose charges for every service they provide, including cash discounts and rates negotiated with third-party payers, such as insurance companies. Additionally, they'll be required to publish plain-language estimated costs for all associated charges for 300 "shoppable" services, such as joint replacements and other common treatments.

The intent is to enable patients to make informed decisions and to promote competition between providers. How-

See **HONG KONG** on Next Page

MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2019

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Gratitude in 2019

In addition to the customary gratitude we feel on Thanksgiving for family, friends and good health, it is likewise appropriate to convey thanks, some long overdue, to certain individuals for their successful efforts to improve our daily lives.

Who does not feel boundless gratitude, for example, to the inventor of the first snowblower? Way back in 1925, Arthur Sicard of Montreal (where else?) patented the Sicard Snow Remover Blower that vacuumed and shot out the white stuff through two swiveling chutes, thus allowing generations of Northerners to drive, fly and function nearly normally in winter weather. Modern versions of his contraption have prevented countless heart attacks and cases of lumbago, while making what was once a miserable, spine-bending chore a vigorous and aesthetically pleasing task, especially when you bundle up to do it after supper and under the stars while smoking a good cigar.

On the subject of lumbago, I'd like also to personally thank Robert Ballard, an engineer with General Motors who came up with heated seats in 1951. Even readers who don't have them in their vehicles must know at least one friend or relative who has purred with guilty pleasure about being able to instantly warm their backsides on January mornings in Illinois. And they have proved to be nearly as therapeutic as those fancy massage recliners when it comes to an ailing back.

No Thanksgiving list this year would be complete without Greta Thunberg, the teen sensation and environmental activist from Sweden, whose shaming of us baby boomers for having done little or nothing to arrest global warming made her a nominee for this past year's Nobel Peace Prize. It also made her a target of none other than President Donald Trump, who has never known a critic he would not mock or attack, whether it's a revered America war hero or a 16-year-old girl with Asperger syndrome.

Speaking of boomers, it's feeling like déjà vu for many of them these days, including yours truly, who finds himself in awe of and grateful all over again for Academy Award-winning actress Jane Fonda, who bravely took the heat for her dramatic opposition to the Vietnam War in 1972, and who is still, at age 81, risking arrest, not to mention a broken hip, as she regularly attends climate change protests against the oil industry and state and federal government entities. At a time in life when most people are lucky just to be ambulatory, the former model and screen star continues her lifelong crusade for a peaceful and better world.

Yet has anyone this past year epitomized bravery more dramatically than former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch? Inexplicably fired from her post, and admitting feeling

By **DAVID MCGRATH**
Chicago Tribune

David McGrath is an emeritus English professor at the College of DuPage and author of *The Territory*.



intimidated by threats from the president before and during her testimony, the career diplomat steeled herself to publicly testify in the impeachment hearings, despite having watched a series of fellow government workers cower and clam up under orders from the White House. She deserves our gratitude as well as the Presidential Medal of Freedom, for which I hope she will not have to wait until after Inauguration Day in 2021.

Breathless thanks for the startling emergence of 17-year-old musical prodigy Billie Eilish for being arguably the only new vocal artist in the last several years to revolutionize the industry, in the way that Bob Dylan or U2 once did. Hers is not just a new type of singing or songwriting, but an elemental change in music, a kind of whispering in our brains that incites and inspires the imagination.

Thanks are also in order from all of Chicagoland for favorite son Chancellor Jonathan Bennett, aka Chance the Rapper. First for his public activism against gun violence in his hometown, second for putting his money where his mouth is with a \$1 million donation to the Chicago Public Schools and third for making South Siders beam with pride in October when he proved himself to be the most charismatic and entertaining host of "SNL" in many years. He could sing, dance and mug with exquisite timing and comedic irony, all while wearing a red Chicago Teachers Union sweatshirt.

Finally, as I had to whittle this column down to just eight people, I absolutely have to squeeze in Andrew Keim, a college freshman who sent me an email of earnest thanks (starting with the word "Wow") after I answered his questions about corrections and revisions in his last composition. While bristling at, protesting or ignoring my red pen is the more customary student reaction, Keim's gesture is the kind of encouragement that reminds a teacher that there's no other work he'd rather be doing.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

The check-the-box impeachment

Nancy Pelosi said she undertook impeachment “prayerfully,” and apparently what she was praying was that she could get it over with as soon as possible.

The House is preparing to send a flagrantly incomplete factual record to the Senate as the basis of an effort to remove a sitting president for the first time in our history.

Pelosi has affected a posture of heavy-heartedness since the outset of the process, saying that “there’s no joy in this” and urging a somber spirit as Democrats pursue the facts wherever they may take them—so long as that’s not too far into an election year.

In substantive terms, the Democrats had a good set of public hearings before Adam Schiff’s intelligence committee in recent weeks—with one gaping hole. They didn’t have anyone with first-hand knowledge of Trump’s directives on Ukraine or his state of mind. The closest was EU ambassador Gordon Sondland, who, still, could only “presume” a quid pro quo over the defense aid.

There are people who probably don’t have to presume, and Sondland named some of them: Trump’s personal counsel Rudy Giuliani, acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. They all were closer to this than Sondland, yet Democrats are happy to make the

guy from the outer bounds of the inner circle their “star witness” and forgo the inner circle. To get the more central witnesses requires litigation since they all have at least colorable claims of privilege. The Democrats don’t want to wait for the courts.

The minimum requirement of a historic impeachment case, only the fourth in our history, would seem to be a complete account of the facts. Schiff used to say as much: “We have to flesh out all of the facts for the American people. The seriousness of the matter and the danger to our country demands nothing less.” Now, the seriousness and the danger are demanding that Democrats rush things along so the president can be impeached by the end of the year.

No matter how often Democrats say, “Let’s honor the Constitution,” their actions say, “Let’s check the box.”

Democrats have had the difficulty from the beginning of trying to build an edifice of impeachment and removal atop the narrow foundation of the Ukraine episode, and now they aren’t even going to finish the edifice, content with what they could complete in a two-month investigation largely reliant on the testimony of people who weren’t around for the main events (former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch) or were out of the loop (former Trump Russia adviser Fiona Hill).

Immigrant worker deportations hurt us all

On Oct. 12, construction worker Delmer Joel Ramirez Palma was working on the Hard Rock Hotel in New Orleans when the structure collapsed, killing three workers and injuring dozens of others. He survived a fall of three flights by swinging on a rope, although he sustained serious injuries.

Ramirez, who has lived in the New Orleans area for 18 years, had, prior to the building’s collapse, raised safety concerns with his supervisor, including the apparent sagging of concrete floors. Immediately following the collapse, he was interviewed by the Spanish-language media outlet Jambalaya News.

Two days later, Ramirez’s world came crashing down again. While on a recuperative fishing trip with his family in Louisiana’s Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge, he was approached by U.S. Fish and Wildlife officers and asked to produce a fishing license, which he did.

Ramirez was then asked for a driver’s license, which he didn’t have. The officers then summoned Border Patrol agents, who

placed him under arrest.

Like many undocumented workers, Ramirez has an outstanding deportation order. But he filed for a stay of deportation earlier this year and has been regularly reporting to ICE. Now he is in custody, slated for impending deportation.

There’s something seriously wrong here. Even if Ramirez’s arrest has no relation to his complaints to management about the building’s condition or his comments to the press, he is an important witness to this tragic event. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, better known as OSHA, is investigating the collapse, to determine whether safety violations occurred, and if so, which parties should be held accountable.

Ramirez’s advocates are warning that whisking him away will have an undeniable chilling effect on the other workers at the Hard Rock Hotel work site. The workers are painfully aware that Ramirez spoke out, and is now facing deportation—a fate they understandably fear could be theirs if they similarly come forward with information.

There are an estimated 8 million immigrant workers in the U.S. without proper work authorization. They routinely suffer employers’ threats to “call ICE” if they dare raise a safety concern or assert their right to minimum wage or overtime pay. Consequently, violations of their rights under these federal worker protection laws—which don’t condition protection on documented status—remain hidden. That allows exploitation of these workers to continue and unsafe conditions like those at the Hard Rock Hotel to go unreported.

T.O.A.S.T.: Tasting Oranges And Salmon Together

The following poems were in the *Saipan Tribune* during Thanksgiving week in 2017. Before we say grace for just a few minutes, let us contemplate world hunger and think about what we can do to help. After all, “We Are the World.”

A Thanksgiving Breath Before Death

My senior citizen spin on Shakespeare's sonnet 73

I behold my time of death in some eternal cold
limbs lame, knees shot, fingers gnarled and froze
most of my songs sung, teenage tales all told
requiem for my frame cawed by a murder of crows
on sea cliffs I welcome the coming of night
watch the moon slowly rise in the east
and darkness as the moon slips out of sight
no worries about eternal night in the least
what is left of my tropical life is glowing coals
a low *tangantangan fire of burning embers
now it is heaven or hell and roasting souls
Thanksgiving has life way beyond Novembers
gone for good now age saps life and strength
my love for all that lives will stay the length
(* tangantangan is “a large bush that proliferates
on many of the high islands in Micronesia. Good
for cattle feed and fuel.” Chamorro-English Dictionary)

From Great Pie To Grilled Octopi

My mouth waters when I can smell an apple rhubarb pie
so it was when I a child so is it now when I am wider
so be it when my eyes can not tell a spider from a fly
or octopus from squid and what it tastes like inside there.

Fina'denne' or Tabasco Sauce

pika fina'denne' or Tabasco sauce

By **RICH LOWRY**

King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

With every day that passes it becomes a little more absurd to say Trump should be impeached and removed when the public can make its own verdict in the election. Besides, Democrats know that impeachment is going nowhere in the Senate, so why bother locking down the case to make it worthy of the gravity of the process?

They might as well go with what they have, a partisan impeachment pursued on a political timetable. During Bill Clinton’s impeachment, it was his defenders who were saying, “Let’s move on.” Now, it’s Trump’s pursuers, who prayerfully and sorrowfully want to get impeachment over with.

By **MICHAEL FELSEN**

Tribune News Service



Michael Felsen of Jamaica Plain, Mass., retired in 2018 after a 39-year career as an attorney with the Department of Labor, serving from 2010-2018 as its New England Regional Solicitor.

This can also affect workers without immigration concerns. When they see their co-workers deported or threatened into silence, the broader message of intimidation isn’t hard to detect.

Aggressive enforcement of our immigration laws obstructs the protection of all workers, documented and undocumented alike. That’s why, on Nov. 21, Democratic lawmakers reintroduced the POWER (Protect Our Workers from Exploitation and Retaliation) Act. It provides new protections for undocumented workers, and thus helps ensure that enforcement of federal immigration policy doesn’t undermine all workers’ basic job-related rights. It deserves bipartisan support.

In the meantime, we need workers like Ramirez to speak out about potentially unsafe and unlawful conditions at work, without fear of deportation. And we need the government to recognize how important that is, for the benefit of all workers, regardless of immigration status.

HONG KONG

From Page 10

ever, some hospital groups are objecting, saying the new rule will confuse patients rather than clarify potential out-of-pocket expenses. They suggest costs could actually increase by making it more difficult for providers to negotiate with insurers. They argue providers could just as easily decide to raise rates to meet competitors’ charges as they could decide to lower them to remain competitive. Four major provider associations—the American Hospital Association, Association of American Medical Colleges, Children’s Hospital Association and the Federation of American Hospitals—announced they will sue CMS to stop implementation of the new rule.

The Washington State Hospital Association shares many of those concerns, encouraging CMS instead to encourage care providers to voluntarily adopt user-friendly cost-estimator tools.

Certainly, pricing information should be user-friendly, says the leader of the Washington Health Alliance, a nonprofit organization that shares the data on health care quality and value. “Transparency is foundational to helping improve the market. That said, it’s tricky to talk about price in a way that’s approachable for people,” executive director Nancy Giunto said in an interview.

As two Washington peer-claims databases have shown, it is possible. The nonprofit Washington Health Alliance compiles and reports on health care costs and spending. Launched last year, WAHealthCareCompare.com aggregates hospital, clinic, dental and prescription claims and eligibility data from the state’s All-Payer Claims Database.

Researchers, policymakers and state agencies can tap into the robust pool of data to identify potential system improvements. Patients can look up quality data and average costs for dozens of common services, and generate an estimate of their out-of-pocket expenses based on their insurance plan.

The CMS rule appears to dramatically expand the transparency already available in Washington, both in amount of data to be published and by expanding it to other states. The change won’t be a panacea, but it will be an important step. Whether a critical mass of health-care consumers will “shop around” for a hospital the way they do a car or contractor—many more factors go into medical decision-making—understanding the drivers of health care costs is a necessary first step toward reining in runaway costs.

(c) 2019 The Seattle Times

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



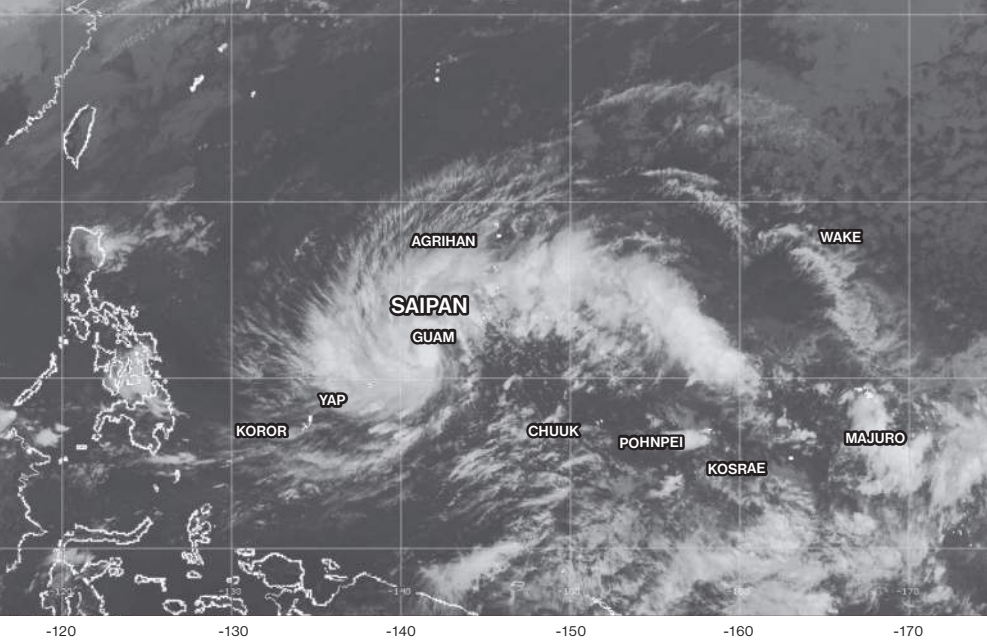
Joey “Pepe Batbon” Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

get some mannok take your pick
some red rice and make it quick
so many depend upon a hot pepper sauce
splashed without restraint on some fried chicken

Giving Thanks on an Island Coral Road
right now a rooster is crowing
many hours before dawn
a schizzy fighting rooster
moonlight on my neighbors lawn
right now streaming radio
a channel of classical baroque
harpichords and lutes play
fiorescent spiral lights broke
right now fresh deer meat
from my oldest adopted son
purple Philippine eggplant
large Chinese squash just one
light rain from the monsoon
banana leaves play a soft tune.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Breezy. Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 20 to 25 mph		Partly sunny with isolated showers. South winds 20 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
85°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 11:15 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

At 750 AM, Tropical Storm Kammuri was centered near 11.5N 142.7E, about 190 miles SW of Guam. Tropical storm conditions persist across the Marianas waters with winds gusting to 50 mph at times on Guam. Combined seas peaked at 20 feet at Ipan bouy last night, and is now at 19.5 feet. Meanwhile, a persistent rainband has been dropping heavy rain on Guam and Rota during the night, and rain continues for those islands this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°			
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°			
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°			
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°			
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°			

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Sunny	68° / 59°			
Beijing	Sunny	36° / 21°			
Hong Kong	Sunny	73° / 64°			
Honolulu	Showers	84° / 73°			
London	Showers	50° / 37°			
Los Angeles	Thunderstorms	55° / 44°			
Manila	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°			
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	66° / 50°			
Miami	Sunny	81° / 69°			
New York	Partly Cloudy	53° / 37°			
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	54° / 39°			
Paris	Showers	54° / 46°			
Busan	Sunny	57° / 43°			
Rome	Showers	63° / 54°			
Salem	Partly Cloudy	68° / 45°			
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	48° / 40°			
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	48° / 28°			
Tokyo	Sunny	48° / 36°			
Washington, DC	Windy	50° / 39°			

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:36 AM	LOW TIDE		-0.62
9:32 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.82
3:06 PM	LOW TIDE		1.01
7:53 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.79

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:27 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:40 AM	7:14 PM	-
Friday	8:38 AM	8:09 PM	-
Saturday	9:33 AM	9:04 PM	-
Sunday	10:23 AM	9:57 PM	-
Monday	11:10 AM	10:49 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 27, 2019									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily		UA174	7:30am	8:10am	Daily	
UA105	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4		UA104	4:50pm	5:30pm	2, 4	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily		7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	
					7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily		OZ6233	8:00am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6	
OZ626	2:10am	6:10am	1		OZ623	8:55am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7	
OZ626	2:50am	6:25am	3, 7		7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily	
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 4, 5, 6		OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7	
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily		TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily	
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6		OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7		7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily	
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)					HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN				
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1		JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4	
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4		JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6		3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7		MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN		UA184/174	12:40am	8:07am+1	3, 6 via GUM	
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM		OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR		UA192/174	10:40pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
					UA184/174	10:55pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
					OZ704/6233	11:45pm	1:20pm+1	1, 3, 5 via ICN	
					OZ704/623	11:45pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/6233	12:30am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ746/623	12:30am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN		UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7	
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN		UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)									
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
SAIPAN TO ROTA					1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily		1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily		1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily	
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily		1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	
ROTA TO SAIPAN					1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily	
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily		1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily	
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily		1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily	
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily		1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily	
ROTA TO GUAM									
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY						
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily						
GUAM TO ROTA									
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY						
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily						
SAIPAN TO TINIAN									
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY						
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily						
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily						
TINIAN TO SAIPAN									
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY						
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily						
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily						
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily						
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily						
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily						
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily						
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily						
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily						
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily						
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily						
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

To be grateful means to find blessings in everything.

HAPPY
Thanksgiving

from the staff and management of
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

As we express our gratitude we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

John F. Kennedy

Happy Thanksgiving

From the Office of
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider,
Vice-President, 21st Senate
Chairman, 21st
Tinian & Aguiguan
Legislative Delegation





Happy
Thanks
giving
Day



30

YEARS
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

This time of the year, we pause to count our blessings.

Your loyalty and support mean so much. A sincere thank you to our partners and to you, our customers.

Our team is grateful.

May you have a bountiful Thanksgiving.

From all of us at
CTSI Logistics

WANTED

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Saipan Tribune is looking for
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Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.
Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Interior applauds Census for opening offices in territories

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior congratulates the U.S. Census Bureau for recently opening census offices in American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands in preparation for the upcoming 2020 Island Areas Censuses.

"I am pleased that the U.S. Census Bureau has taken this positive, proactive stance to support and strengthen the 2020 Census operation for the U.S. territories," said Doug Domenech, assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs. "We believe that Census' close work with each of the territories will ensure accurate, and timely results for our fellow Americans in the territories. I look forward to robust results and encourage all to be counted in the upcoming 2020 Census."

Dr. Jennifer Kim, the Census Bureau's assistant division chief, who is overseeing the 2020 Island Areas Censuses, said the opening of the five Island Areas census offices "demonstrates our commitment to ensure that the census is accurate, timely, and meaningful for the Island Areas."

The U.S. Constitution mandates that a census of the nation's population be taken every 10 years. Title 13 of the U.S. Code authorizes the Sec-

retary of Commerce (delegated to the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau) to undertake the decennial census. The geographic scope of the decennial census is specified in Title 13 U.S.C., Section 191 as covering the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the CNMI, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and "as may be determined by the Secretary, such other possessions and areas over which the United States exercises jurisdiction, control, or sovereignty." Operating under the latter authority of the Secretary, Census included an office for American Samoa.

The 2020 Island Areas Censuses will collect demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the USVI. Census has worked closely with each of the territory governments to finalize the content of the questions and to provide the maximum public utility with minimum individual burden. The 2020 Census subjects were submitted to Congress in March 2017 and the 2020 Census questions were submitted to Congress in March 2018 with correspondences sent to the congressional delegates of each territory.

Outreach efforts by the Census offices to encourage

participation in each territory will begin in early 2020. For general information on the upcoming 2020 Census, visit <https://2020census.gov/en>. For information in the territories, reach out to your local Census office in each territory. (PR)

CENSUS OFFICES

American Samoa (Census Advisor: Jason Kopp)
Lumana'i Building, 2nd Floor
Pago Pago, American Samoa, 96799
684-644-2020

CNMI (Census Advisor: Colleen Joyce)
Ladera Building, 3rd Floor
Beach Road
Chalan Lau Lau, Saipan, MP, 96950
670-682-2020

Guam (Census Advisor: Terrina Long)
Century Plaza, 2nd Floor
219 S. Marine Corps Drive
Tamuning, Guam, 96913
671-645-2020

USVI — St. Croix (Census Advisor: Tomas Encarnacion)
Plot No. 35 & 35A Castle Coakley
Building No. 1, 2nd Floor East
Christiansted, USVI, 00820
340-718-2020

USVI — St. Thomas (Census Advisor: Daniel Doyle)
8666 Lindberg Bay, 2nd Floor
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, USVI, 00802
340-718-2020

Happy Thanksgiving!

From the staff and management



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Business

Neil Fama: THE ISLAND SHOWMAN

By **MARC A. VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan magician Neil “The Island Showman” Fama is ready to make magic happen this holiday season.

Fama, who specializes in close-up magic, said his passion for magic tricks and illusions are powered primarily by his desire “to share the art of magic with the people of the CNMI and promote the value of performing arts to the community.”

He intends to do just that with his entertainment business, Fama Llama Productions LLC, which accepts bookings for any event that needs the razzle-dazzle of a magic show.

Whether you want to make your child a superstar on his or her birthday, or need an energetic source of entertainment to impress all your guests at

your private event, Fama’s skills in the art of illusion can help make your special occasion even more magical.

Fama has also done shows for older audiences. In fact, he won the top prize at the CNMI’s Got Talent contest back in 2017, bagging the Governor’s Choice Award.

He has worked in island venues such as Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Saipan World Resort, the Pacific Islands Club, Saipan Vegas, DFS T-Galleria, Latte Built Fitness 24-hour Gym, and many more. In addition, Fama has worked several shows on Tinian, appearing several times in annual festivals and events.

Starting off back in 2017 as a card magician, Fama was mentored by former SandCastle illusionist, Leon Etienne, who is currently traveling around the world performing his “Magic Rocks!” show.

Fama is no stranger to the business sector, as Fama Llama Productions LLC is under



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Neil “The Island Showman” Fama performs his award-winning trick at Bridge Capital LLC’s CNMI’s Got Talent

the Saipan Chamber of Commerce’s network of private businesses. “It is a great opportunity to be a member, as it provides me a greater network with potential businesses that could work with my business in the future,” he said.

Fama has also done street shows in the past, performing

at the Thursday Street Market and at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

Although Fama’s business is currently centered around the arts of magic, Fama Llama Productions LLC is looking to potentially open its doors to anyone who is interested in theater production such as camera work, lighting, sound, etc. In the past Fama has worked with other performers such as Saipan Studio 29:11, Simon “Juggles” Necessito, and MHS Rhythm and Harmony Glee Club.

Earlier this year, Fama held his debut magic show, “Neil Fama: The Island Showman Live,” at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom. Fama described the show as a great experience for a first run and is excited to announce a new project is in development.

“I have spoken to potential clients about working on a close up show and we are hoping to have two-night shows by mid-2020,” Fama said.

He is also looking forward to assembling a small crew for the project. “For those inter-



Neil “The Island Showman” Fama performs at the Saipan Chamber’s Inaugural Business Expo.

ested in working with me as a crew, you can contact me for the details,” he said.

In addition, for those who have worked with Fama in the past, he is opening the opportunity of providing a discount for return customers.

For those interested in booking future events, contact Fama directly at (670) 287-

6345 (NEIL), or email booking@neilfama.com. To learn about Fama and his business, visit his website at www.neilfama.com or visit his social media pages: @MagicNeilFama on Facebook and @MagicOfNeillusion on Instagram.



Neil “The Island Showman” Fama entertains kids at Herman’s Modern Bakery’s 75th Anniversary Family Fun Day.

Chamber gauging interest in healthcare plan

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is currently gauging interest in the number of Chamber members and potential new members that would be interested in accessing a Chamber Member Healthcare Group Plan with TakeCare Insurance Company, Inc. The target audience for participation are small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Chamber member/future members interested in partaking in the group rate need to fill out the survey at the following link before 5pm on Friday, Nov. 29, 2019: <http://tinyurl.com/scchealthcaresurvey>

Based on interest from Chamber members, the Chamber will decide if it will move forward with the program.

The survey link includes the proposed rates as well as more information about the plans being offered. The current proposal for TakeCare are which would start Jan. 1, 2020. Participants would have the option to choose from the following medical and dental plans:

■ Medical plans - CNMI Platinum Premier \$10-100% - \$10 OR CNMI Platinum

Premier 20%-80%-55

■ Dental plans - CORE Dental 8550 \$1000 Plan Max OR CORE Dental 8880 \$3,000 Plan Max

■ Medical and dental plans - CNMI Platinum Premier \$10-100% - \$10 OR CNMI Platinum Premier 20%-80%-55 AND CORE Dental 8550 \$1000 Plan Max OR CORE Dental 8880 \$3,000 Plan Max

The proposed rates in the survey are estimates based on the number of employees enrolled. Numbers may go down if more are enrolled, or the program may not be executed if not enough employees are interested.

Chamber members in good member standing (up-to-date on membership dues) who do not already have TakeCare insurance are eligible to participate.

Businesses with one employee are eligible to enroll during open enrollment period

Current Chamber members would have to enroll during this upcoming enrollment period (December 2019) to avail of the group rates. Current Chamber members cannot join the group after this

upcoming enrollment period.

Businesses enrolling this year (December 2019) would need to provide a copy of their business license and most recent Quarterly Wage Report.

For interested future members, Chamber Member Annual Dues are \$300 for members with less than \$250,000 in gross revenue, \$500 for members between \$250,000 and \$600,000 in gross revenue, and \$1,000 for members between \$600,000 and \$1 million in gross revenue. Future Chamber members interested in availing of membership to access the health group rate should email administrator@saipanchamber.com to learn how to become a member.

For questions about the proposed Chamber Member Healthcare Plan, contact Maxine Laszlo at executive@saipanchamber.com.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower our enterprises as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan’s private sector. Its vision is to create an island where businesses, family, and community succeed as one. (PR)



Neil “The Island Showman” Fama and his assistant Lizelle Cruz, right, perform strolling closeup magic for the guests at DFS Galleria’s Loyalty Appreciation Event.

Nation

Bloomberg: US would benefit from more, not fewer, immigrants

PHOENIX (AP)—Presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg said Tuesday that the United States needs “an awful lot more immigrants rather than less.”

On his second day campaigning for the Democratic nomination, the former New York City mayor contrasted

his views on immigration with President Donald Trump’s restrictive policies and laid out a vision of a multicultural society enriched by immigrants.

“We need immigrants to take all the different kinds of jobs that the country needs — improve our culture, our cuisine, our religion, our dialogue

and certainly improve our economy,” the billionaire told reporters at a Mexican restaurant in Phoenix.

He blasted Trump’s policies that resulted in the separation of families arriving on the border.

“Ripping kids away from their parents is a disgrace,” he said.

Bloomberg reiterated his

Nov. 17 apology for supporting New York’s stop-and-frisk police strategy, a practice that he embraced as mayor and continued to defend despite its disproportionate impact on people of color.

He said it was a mistake but also credited it with reducing New York’s murder rate.

“How many times do you hear elected officials say, ‘I made a mistake?’” Bloomberg said. “None of us do everything perfectly. I’m sorry it happened, I can’t rewrite history. Let’s get on with it.”

Bloomberg spoke in the back of a small restaurant in a heavily Latino area a few miles east of downtown Phoenix, the type of community that has helped propel Democrats to success after decades of Republican domination in Arizona. Latinos organized against a tough 2010 immigra-

tion law and against Sheriff Joe Arpaio’s immigration patrols, the latter of which was struck down in the courts for racial profiling.

Arizona has received scant attention from the Democrats running for president, but Bloomberg has put a heavy focus in a state he said will be crucial to the general election. It’s one of four states where his campaign said it’s pouring \$100 million into anti-Trump digital ads, and one of five where the campaign says it will push to register voters.



AP
Mike Bloomberg speaks to the media, Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019 in Phoenix. Bloomberg, a late entrant in the already crowded race for the Democratic presidential nomination, was set Tuesday to file to run in Arizona’s presidential primary.

Trump defends against impeachment at ‘homecoming rally’

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP)—Prompting a profane chant. Describing his own speeches as “ranting and raving.” Advising the governor of Florida to not always wear a jacket so people know he’s not fat.

Now a Florida man, President Donald Trump held what his campaign dubbed a “homecoming rally” near Miami Tuesday, continuing to lash out at the ongoing impeachment inquiry in a state that will be crucial to his 2020 reelection bid.

The rally was Trump’s first in the state since he officially changed his residency last month from Trump Tower in New York to his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach. He received a warm welcome from the roaring crowd at an arena in Sunrise.

“Welcome home to Florida,” the state’s Republican governor, Ron DeSantis, told him.

The House impeachment inquiry is entering its next phase after lawmakers last week completed their first round of public interviews concerning Trump’s efforts to pressure Ukraine to investigate his political rivals. The House Intelligence Committee is now pre-

paring a report on its findings, while the House Judiciary Committee is moving forward with its own hearings before it is expected to consider formal articles of impeachment.

Trump spent much of his rally railing against Democrats, accusing them of “trying to rip our nation apart” with investigations.

“First it was the Russia hoax,” Trump said, “and now the same maniacs are pushing the deranged ... impeachment” narrative. He insisted yet again that he had done nothing wrong in his dealings with Ukraine and argued anew that Democrats are only trying to take him down because “they know that they cannot win the next election.”

Still, Trump insisted that voters aren’t being persuaded—despite polling to the contrary—and tried to assure his audience that “we won these last two weeks so solidly,” despite damning public testimony and unflattering press reports.

“You see what’s happening in the polls? Everybody said, ‘That’s really bulls---,’” Trump said, prompting a chant of the profanity to erupt from

the crowd.

At the same time, Trump worked to butter up voters as he described his supporters as the “super elite.”

“You people are successful as hell,” he told them. “You’re smarter. You’re better looking. You’re sharper.”

Trump also spent time discussing recent controversies, including an unannounced trip he paid to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on a Saturday this month.

Despite lingering questions about the visit, Trump assured the crowd that if he “didn’t feel great,” he “wouldn’t be ranting and raving” to crowds so large.

He also complimented the state’s governor, at one point commenting on his physique and suggesting he wear jackets less frequently.

Florida will be a crucial state for Trump as he tries to replicate his 2016 victory. He carried it by less than 2 percentage points then, defying expectations and paving the way to an electoral college victory.

“Less than one year from now I will join voters across the Sunshine State, my home, as we head to the polls,”

Trump told the crowd, predicting rosily that, “together, we will win back the House, we will hold the Senate and we will keep that beautiful, beautiful White House.”

Throughout his presidency, Trump has spent many winter weekends and holidays in Florida, mingling with dues-paying members at Mar-a-Lago and golfing at the courses he owns nearby. Ethics experts have raised alarms at the arrangement, in which wealthy Americans and foreigners can quite literally buy access to the president of the United States.

Trump decided last month to officially change his residency to Florida after long claiming he’d been mistreated by New York officials investigating his conduct and railing against the state’s management, including its high tax rate.

But not everyone was happy about his return.

About 200 anti-Trump protesters rallied on a street outside the BB&T Center before the president arrived, raising a helium-filled “Baby Trump” balloon as some chanted, “Lock him up.”

ACROSS THE NATION

Man lost in building debris for more than a day found dead

CINCINNATI (AP)—The construction company working on an Ohio building that partially collapsed says the body of a worker who’s been missing for more than a day has been found. Turner Construction Company confirmed that the man was found dead Tuesday in the rubble of an unfinished downtown Cincinnati building. The Cincinnati Enquirer reports Fire Chief Roy Winston said the worker was checking for signs of structural stress Monday when concrete was poured on the temporary floor above him. Four other workers were treated and released from hospitals after the temporary floor collapsed. The building is on a construction site that isn’t accessible to the public. Authorities have not released the identity of the man. Turner Construction says he was an employee of Gateway Concrete Forming.

More clues point to chemical compound in US vaping illnesses

NEW YORK (AP)—Health officials said Tuesday they have more evidence that a certain chemical compound is a culprit in a national outbreak of vaping illnesses. Researchers analyzed black market vaping cartridges seized in Minnesota during the outbreak this year, and vaping liquid seized in that state last year. The newer cartridges contained the compound vitamin E acetate, but none of the older samples did. They also looked at vaping cartridges collected from a dozen patients. Vitamin E acetate was commonly found in those, too. The study was small, but it echoes other work that found the compound in the damaged lungs of 29

patients across the country. “The findings further support a potential role for vitamin E acetate in causing lung injury associated with vaping products,” said Dr. Ruth Lynfield, a Minnesota health official. Nearly 2,300 Americans who vape have gotten sick since March, many of them teens and young adults, according to a recent tally by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At least 47 people have died.

Man found in freezer was husband of recently deceased woman

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A man whose body was in a freezer for as long as 11 years was the husband of the woman who had recently died in their apartment west of Salt Lake City, police said Tuesday. But the autopsy that nailed down his identity didn’t help investigators solve how he died, who killed him or exactly how long his body was tucked into the chest freezer inside the couple’s apartment, said Tooele Police Sgt. Jeremy Hansen. Officers discovered the body of Paul Edwards Mathers, 69, last Friday after finding his wife dead on the bed when they went there to check on her after she hadn’t been seen in two weeks. Detectives couldn’t tell from looking at the fully intact body how he died, but suspect foul play, Hansen said. The death of his wife, Jeanne Souron-Mathers, 75, is not considered suspicious. They don’t know if she was involved in her husband’s death, Hansen said. Detectives estimate the man’s body was in the freezer from between 1 and 11 years based on when residents in the apartment complex say they last saw him. The autopsy didn’t narrow down that time frame, Hansen said.

Asia

HK tunnel reopens, campus siege nears end

HONG KONG (AP)—A major tunnel in Hong Kong reopened Wednesday morning and a weeklong police siege of a nearby university appeared to be winding down, closing one of the more violent chapters in the city's long-running anti-government protests.

The Cross-Harbour Tunnel, which links Hong Kong Island to the rest of the city, had been closed for two weeks after protesters blocked the approach with tons of debris and set the toll booths on fire.

A search of the Hong Kong Polytechnic campus the previous day found just one woman, in weak condition, and a senior university official said it's unlikely anyone else remains.

A few people might still be hiding in the warren of buildings on the urban campus, trying to avoid arrest. The search apparently didn't find a man who told reporters before dawn Tuesday that he is happy living at the university and "everyone



AP
Vehicles queue up at the toll booths to enter the Cross-Harbour Tunnel, which has reopened, in Hong Kong on Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2019.

a weekly meeting with advisers. "Please help us to maintain the relative calm and peace that we have seen in the last week or so and provide a good basis for Hong Kong to move forward."

Her refusal to compromise could spark more unrest at a time when the semi-autonomous Chinese territory has plunged into its first recession in a decade.

The streets around Polytechnic were the scenes of fierce clashes with police 10 days ago. Protesters used the campus as a base and shut down access to a major roadway under Hong Kong's harbor, setting the toll booths on fire.

The Cross-Harbour Tunnel will reopen Wednesday morning, earlier than expected, a senior city official announced.

The seven search teams went through most of the buildings on the Polytechnic campus, finding one woman who appeared physically weak, a university statement said.

Wai, the vice president, said she is over 18 and not a student of the university. A Red Cross first aid team gave her medical care, and counselors were trying to coax her to surrender.

Pope Francis wants to make official immorality of nuke arms possession

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE (AP)—Pope Francis is planning to change official Catholic Church teaching to declare the use and possession of atomic weapons as "immoral," a move that makes clear that his rejection of the Cold War-era doctrine of deterrence is to be official church policy.

Francis had declared the possession of nuclear weapons immoral on Sunday in Hiroshima during an emotional encounter with survivors of the U.S. atomic bomb.

On Tuesday, during a press conference en route home from Japan, Francis indicated that his Hiroshima address should be considered part of his magisterium, or official church teaching.

"This must go in the Catechism of the Catholic Church," he said, referring to the published compendium of official church teaching.

"Not just the use, also the possession," he said. "Because an accident of possession, or the insanity of a leader or someone, can destroy humanity."

Francis first articulated his opposition to the doctrine of deterrence in 2017, during a Vatican conference, when he said the possession of nuclear weapons was "to be condemned."

The shift upended three decades of the Vatican's tacit acceptance of nuclear

arsenals. Starting in 1982, St. John Paul II had held that deterrence could be morally acceptable in the interim as long as it was used as a step toward mutual, verifiable disarmament.

In the ensuing years, however, the Holy See has watched as arms control treaties collapsed, new nuclear powers emerged and the policy of assured mutual destruction resulted in a permanent stockpiling of bombs.

Francis also went further Tuesday in his comments on nuclear energy, saying he would rule out its use until scientists can offer "total security" to ensure that accidents, natural disasters and "crazed" individuals won't destroy humanity and the environment with nuclear fallout.

Francis offered his "personal opinion" that went beyond the "concern" he expressed in public a day earlier during a meeting with survivors of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster.

The Japanese government strongly backs nuclear energy despite the 2011 "triple disaster," in which three Fukushima nuclear reactors partially melted down after an earthquake triggered a tsunami. The disaster spewed nuclear fallout across the region and at one point forced the evacuation of 160,000 people.

can stop worrying about us."

Police have cordoned off the area to try to prevent anyone from escaping.

Polytechnic University Vice President Alexander Wai, who led a search of the campus by seven teams, said he couldn't rule out that some people remained, but "the possibility is not very high."

Attention in Hong Kong has shifted to city leader Carrie Lam's

response to a major loss in local elections Sunday. The results were seen as a public rebuke of her tough line on the protests.

Lam, after issuing only a written statement Monday, offered no concessions to anti-government protesters, saying only that she would accelerate dialogue and identify ways to address societal grievances.

She said the central government in Beijing did not blame

her for the election setback, and that while it may have reflected unhappiness with the government's handling of the unrest, it also showed that many people want an end to the violence.

"Let me just stress that after these five-six months, Hong Kong people have realized very clearly that Hong Kong could no longer tolerate this chaotic situation," Lam told reporters after

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH rebel spokesman arrested in Manila hospital

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine military officials say a communist guerrilla leader and spokesman has been arrested while being secretly treated for high blood pressure in a hospital in an upscale residential and shopping district in suburban Manila. Military officials said Tuesday that army troops and police arrested Jaime Padilla, who uses the nom de guerre Ka Diego, and three men who were guarding him Monday night in a room at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center in the Greenhills district of San Juan city. President Rodrigo Duterte has been to the same hospital in the past for medical tests. Padilla, who is in his 60s and known for his trademark Maoist rebel cap, has given interviews in the past to journalists in his mountain jungle camp southeast of Manila where young Marxist guerrillas marched and displayed their weapons in front of photographers and

TV cameras. The communist insurgency has continued in the Philippines for more than 50 years, making it one of Asia's longest-running rebellions. Battle setbacks, surrenders and infighting, however, have weakened the guerrilla group, which is considered a terrorist organization by the United States and remains a key Philippine security threat.

Grenade tossed at Kashmir officials kills 2, injures 4

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—An attacker tossed a grenade at a meeting of government and village officials in Indian-controlled Kashmir on Tuesday, killing at least two people and injuring four others, police said. The dead were identified as an elected village official and a government employee. Police said the unknown attackers hurled the grenade when officials were meeting in a government building in southern Badasgam village. Separately, police said at least three civilians were injured in an

explosion outside a restaurant in Srinagar, the main city in the disputed region. Police blamed rebels fighting Indian rule for both attacks. Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan but claimed by both in its entirety. The two countries have fought two wars over control of the region. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training rebels who have been fighting for Kashmir's independence or its merger with Pakistan since 1989. Islamabad rejects India's charge and says it only provides moral and diplomatic support. About 70,000 people have been killed in the armed uprising and the ensuing Indian military crackdown.

Malaysian court frees Australian woman in drug case

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia (AP)—An Australian woman escaped the death penalty and was released Tuesday after Malaysia's top court acquitted her of drug trafficking, a rare ruling that could bolster calls for an end to capital

punishment in the country. Defense lawyer Muhammad Shafee Abdullah said the Federal Court unanimously overturned Maria Elvira Pinto Exposto's conviction by an appellate court and ruled she could walk free after a five-year legal battle. "The judges said this is not a case safe enough for them to declare a conviction ... because there is so much dissatisfaction over the features and the evidence that have been presented," he told reporters. Exposto, a 55-year-old mother of four from Sydney and also a grandmother, was taken into immigration custody because her visa had expired but was released later Tuesday and was expected to fly home soon. "I'm thrilled. I'm very happy because I can go home to my family," she told reporters, saying she had expected an acquittal because she had faith in her lawyers. Asked what she would do first, Exposto laughed and said, "I'm going out to eat a steak and drink some wine because those five years I did not have any."

World

Rescuers comb building rubble after Albanian quake kills 21

DURRES, Albania (AP)—Rescue crews with excavators searched for survivors trapped in toppled apartment buildings and hotels Tuesday as the death toll from a powerful pre-dawn earthquake in Albania climbed to 21, with more than 600 people injured.

The magnitude-6.4 quake was felt across the southern Balkans and was followed by multiple aftershocks, with several above magnitude 5. In nearby Bosnia, another temblor with a preliminary magnitude of 5.4 struck southeast of the capital Sarajevo, causing only minor damage.

The quake in Albania knocked down apartment buildings and hotels while people slept, and rescue crews worked into the evening to free more people believed trapped. There was no indication as to how many might still be buried in the rubble, as neighboring countries and European Union nations sent search-and-rescue crews to help.

The government declared an official day of mourning

AP
Rescuers search at a damaged building after a magnitude 6.4 earthquake in Thumane, western Albania, Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019.



In total at least three hotels, a residential villa and an apartment building collapsed in Durres, and one apartment building in Thumane.

In Thumane, one woman cried and begged Rama to help find her missing daughter-in-law. Rama embraced the woman and tried to console her.

In Durres, the Albanian prime minister was accompanied by Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias, who had been visiting neighboring North Macedonia earlier in the day.

"We have been through this, we know this, we will do whatever we can to help," said Dendias, whose country is also in a highly seismically active region and was among more than a dozen countries sending search-and-rescue teams to Albania. "We stand with the Albanian people, with its government, to offer whatever we can."

Defense Minister Olta Xhaka said the search-and-rescue efforts were "extremely difficult operations, where you have to work slowly because there is a high risk of further collapse, endangering not only residents, but also those trapped, and the rescuers themselves."

for Wednesday, with Albanian flags on official buildings to fly at half-staff. Schools would remain closed until Monday, as Thursday and Friday were national holidays. The country's soccer federation announced all matches would be cancelled for the rest of the week.

Local television stations showed footage in the early hours after the quake of a young boy being rescued from a collapsed building in the coastal town of Durres, 33 kilometers (20 miles) west of the capital Tirana and one of the worst-hit areas. An excavator moved a

broken slab of concrete and the boy cried and shouted in pain as local men pulled mangled reinforcement bars out of the way trying to try to free his leg from the rubble.

Hours later, live TV footage showed people cheering as another child was found alive in a collapsed building in Durres where a body had been located earlier. In total, 43 people had been rescued from the rubble of buildings by Tuesday evening.

Health Minister Ogerta Manastirliu said more than 600 people had been treated for injuries,

including nine hospitalized with life-threatening injuries.

"It is a dramatic moment where we should preserve calm, (and) stay alongside each other to cope with this shock," Prime Minister Edi Rama said. He later visited Durres, where 12 people died, and the northern town of Thumane where another seven people were killed by a collapsing apartment building. One person died after jumping from his home to escape in Kurbini, 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Tirana, while another was killed on a road that collapsed in the northern town of Lezha.

WORLD BRIEFS

Thousands rally in support of embattled Israeli leader

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Thousands of people rallied in support of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday in what was intended to be a show of strength for the Israeli leader as he battles a corruption indictment and a possible rebellion within his own party. While the demonstration has no impact on the legal charges, a strong turnout could give Netanyahu a boost in terms of public opinion and against potential rivals in his Likud party as the country appears to be heading toward new elections. Netanyahu has claimed that he is the victim of an attempted "coup" by overzealous police investigators and prosecutors. As the protest got underway in central Tel Aviv, a crowd of roughly 5,000 people rallied for Netanyahu, hoisting Israeli flags and posters that accused prosecutors of "blackmail" and "threats." In a possible sign of trouble for Netanyahu, most of Likud's senior officials skipped the event. Netanyahu ally Micky Zohar, one of the few Likud officials to attend, took to the stage to criticize the country's legal system. He said the goal of the demonstration was not to "attack" the legal system, drawing boos from the crowd. "We can't replace the system, but we can change it," he said.

Turkey says car bomb kills 17 in northeastern Syria

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—A car bomb went off in a Turkish-controlled area of northeastern Syria on Tuesday, killing at least 17 people, Turkey's Defense Ministry said. In a statement posted on Twitter, the ministry said more than 20 others were wounded in the explosion in the village of Tal Half, near the city of Ras al-Ayn.

Turkish troops and allied Syrian fighters captured the Ras al-Ayn area in October when Ankara invaded northeastern Syria to drive away Syrian Kurdish fighters. The ministry blamed the attack, the latest in a string of deadly car bomb attacks in the area, on Syrian Kurdish fighters. Ankara views the Kurdish fighters as terrorists for their links to a Kurdish insurgency inside Turkey. The fighters had however partnered with the U.S. against the Islamic State group. In a major shift in the power balance in oil-rich northeastern Syria, U.S. troops pulled back from the border with Turkey to avoid clashes with a NATO ally, opening the way for the Turkey-backed invasion.

Days of heavy rains in Congo's capital kill at least 32

KINSHASA, Congo (AP)—Flooding and landslides after heavy rains in Congo have left at least 32 people dead in and around the capital, Kinshasa, officials said Tuesday. "The situation is a dramatic. In addition to 15 lifeless bodies that we have collected, there is significant material damage," said Jean Nsaka, the magistrate in Lemba. He said a much higher death toll is possible. Nsaka said poor building construction, a lack of water drainage systems and land erosion contributed to dangerous conditions. A road leading to the University of Kinshasa was cut off by erosion and many other roads were swept away. Landslides have "practically engulfed women, children and fathers in their houses," he said. The mayor of Mont Ngafula, Tryhon Woobin, said at least 17 people have died there, including a family of six buried by landslides. "We are trying to unearth the dead," he said. In the community of Limete one person was electrocuted and died, he said.

Baghdad bombings kill 5 as Iraqis protest government

BAGHDAD (AP)—Three simultaneous explosions rocked Baghdad late Tuesday, killing five people and wounding more than a dozen, Iraqi officials said, in the first apparent coordinated attack since anti-government protests erupted nearly two months ago.

It was not immediately clear who has behind the bombings, which bore the hallmarks of the Islamic State group. Iraq declared victory over the extremists nearly two years ago, but they still maintain a presence in parts of the country and carry out sporadic attacks.

The most recent IS attack took place in the Shiite holy city of Karbala in September, where the militants bombed a minibus, killing 12 people. The Sunni extremists view Shiites as apostates deserving of death.

Security officials said at least three people were killed and five wounded in an explosion in the southwestern Bai-

yaa neighborhood. Two were killed and four were wounded in northeastern Shaab City, and four were wounded in Baladiyat, southeast of Baghdad.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media, said two bomb-laden motorcycles and a roadside bomb were used in the attacks.

The bombings took place far from Baghdad's Tahrir Square, the epicenter of weeks of anti-government protests that have posed the biggest security challenge to Iraq since the defeat of IS.

Security forces killed three protesters and wounded at least 80 on Tuesday as demonstrations raged in Baghdad and across mostly Shiite southern Iraq. The protesters accuse the Shiite-led government of being hopelessly corrupt and complain of poor public services and high unemployment.

Security and hospital of-

ficials said two protesters in Baghdad were killed when security forces fired live ammunition and rubber bullets. In southern Iraq, one protester was killed when security forces fired live rounds after a full day of sit-ins and road closures.

Security and hospital officials confirmed the toll on condition of anonymity, in line with regulations.

Protesters in Baghdad, most of them balaclava-clad Iraqi youth, carried one of the slain demonstrators, his face covered in blood, away from the scene of the fighting. They sent him to the hospital aboard a tuk tuk, the three-wheeled motorcycles that have become a symbol of the protests.

Another protester died near the banks of the Tigris River, close to Ahrar bridge. Protesters are occupying part of three key bridges—Jumhuriya, Ahrar and Sinak—in a standoff with security forces.



Environment

By **PATRICK WHITTLE**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—From the surface, these 22 square miles of water are unexceptional.

But dip beneath the surface — go down 60 or 70 feet — and you'll find a spectacular seascape. Sponges, barnacles and tube worms cover rocky ledges on the ocean floor, forming a "live bottom."

Gray's Reef is little more than a drop in the ocean 19 miles off the Georgia coast, but don't confuse size for significance. In one of his last official acts, President Jimmy Carter declared the reef a national marine sanctuary at the urging of conservationists who said its abundance of life was unique and worth saving for future generations.

For nearly 40 years, the U.S. government has protected the reef, home to more than 200 species of fish and an amazing array of nearly 1,000 different kinds of invertebrates. Recreational fishing and diving are allowed, but commercial fishing and other kinds of exploitation are not.

And Gray's Reef has served as a global inspiration. Following the lead of the U.S., other nations have designated similar sanctuaries and protected areas, which now cover about 6% of the world's oceans — a bonanza for researchers but, more importantly, an important tool for safeguarding the seas.

Doubts remain about how much of the ocean they can truly save. Last year was the hottest on record for the planet's oceans, and protected areas can't slow the biggest source of that warming — increasing greenhouse gases. The federal government says more than 90% of the warming that has occurred on the planet over the past half-century has taken place in the ocean.

That has had dramatic effects in the waters that cover 70% of Earth's surface. Scientists have tied the warming to the rise of sea levels, the disappearance of fish stocks and the bleaching of corals. The ocean also has become more acidic as humans have released higher concentrations of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, and that jeopardizes valuable shellfish and the plankton that form the base of the food chain.

The supporters for the protected areas range from sustenance fishermen on the tiniest islands of the Pacific to researchers at the most elite institutions of academia.

"We're not protecting these areas just for ourselves," Roldan Muñoz, a research fishery biologist with the U.S.'s National Marine Fisheries Service, says during a re-



How a small stretch of ocean stirred a conservation movement

AP

Justin Miyano, left, vessel operations coordinator, and Kimberly Roberson, research coordinator for Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, make a safety stop while scuba diving at the sanctuary Monday, Oct. 28, 2019, off the coast of Savannah, Ga.

search trip to the reef, "they're for our nation."

■ ■ ■

On a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration expedition to Gray's Reef, the federal research vessel Nancy Foster is packed with scientists conducting research on subjects ranging from whether invasive lionfish are present to how changing ocean conditions are affecting coral species.

Sanctuary research coordinator Kimberly Roberson and other scientists prepare to dive to collect data about what fish can be found in the area, while Craig Aumack, an assistant professor of biology at Georgia Southern University, peers through a microscope at algae.

Aumack notes that more types of seaweed and tropical species of fish are appearing on the reef as waters warm, like the odd-looking and colorful clown wrasse, a fish native to the Caribbean Sea that was found off the coast of Georgia this summer, most likely pushed hundreds of miles to the north by changing ocean temperatures.

The sanctuary is named after Milton "Sam" Gray, a biologist who studied it in the 1960s and identified it as an ecosystem worth saving — a reef not far from the U.S. coast that teemed with life, especially an "abundance of diversity of invertebrates," Roberson notes.

Without that designation, the habitat could have vanished due to high-impact industries such as bottom-trawl commercial fishing, which are now prohibited there.

"In some ways, it's a test of what a marine protected area can do for surrounding areas," says Clark Alexander, director and professor at the University

of Georgia Skidaway Institute of Oceanography and a former member of the sanctuary's advisory board. "It was sort of an ideal spot to preserve this kind of habitat and make it available for research and recreation."

In the decades since Gray's was established, large and more stringently protected zones have popped up all over the world.

Phoenix Island Protected Area, established in January 2008, covers more than 150,000 square miles off the tiny island republic of Kiribati and has been cited by scientists for bringing back species of fish in just over a decade. And an area nearly twice as large, the Rapa Nui Marine Protected Area, now surrounds Easter Island after its creation in 2018.

Former U.S. Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama greatly expanded the U.S.'s protected areas. Bush created the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument off Hawaii and Obama extended it late in his presidency to a whopping 582,578 square miles.

Smaller protected areas, such as the 5,000-square-mile Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monument off New England, created by Obama in 2016, also have been established.

Nine years ago, the U.N. Convention on Biological Diversity agreed to the goal of protecting 10% of the world's oceans by 2020. The UN said in 2017 that it was on its way to meeting that target and that protected areas "contribute substantial social, economic and environmental benefits to society" and "provide food security and livelihood security

for some 300 million people."

■ ■ ■

One commonly cited problem with the protected areas is the difficulty of enforcing rules that restrict commercial fishing and other intrusive industries from vast areas where few people ever venture, particularly in

developing parts of the world where resources are limited.

Creating new protected areas without reducing fishing quotas won't save species, says Daniel Pauly, a professor of fisheries at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

And that is not a small is-

sue, as some estimates say the number of fish in the ocean was reduced by half from 1970 to 2015, with warming oceans expected to add to that loss.

"Rebuilding will require not just new protected areas, but it will require quotas reduced," Pauly says.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF † Peterson Kiauol Keju

Born on October 11, 1991
Passed away on November 11, 2019



We, the family of †Peterson Kiauol Keju also known as "Pete" announce to all families, relatives and friends to join us for a Service on Friday, November 29, 2019 at 3:00 pm at CHC Chapel. After the service, his remains will lay in repose at the family residence in Magalahi Drive, Upper MIHA, House M-39.

On Saturday, November 30, 2019 at 10:00 am, his remains will be transported Tanapag Cemetery for burial.

Killisou Chapur & Thank you
The Family

Life & Style

AARP releases the names of its Movies for Grownups nominees

NEW YORK (AP)—A new batch of film nominations are out from an influential media organization—but superhero flicks and “Frozen 2” need not apply.

AARP has released nominations for its annual Movies for Grownups awards, which

is designed to reward films that resonate with older viewers and fight industry ageism.

AARP The Magazine on Tuesday nominated “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood,” “Bombshell,” “Little Women,” “Marriage Story,” “Once Upon a Time in Hol-

lywood,” “The Farewell,” “The Irishman” and “The Two Popes” for the best picture/best movie category.

The best actress category includes Isabelle Huppert (“Frankie”), Helen Mirren (“The Good Liar”), Julianne Moore (“Gloria Bell”), Alfre

Woodard (“Clemency”) and Renee Zellweger (“Judy”).

Competing for best actor will be Antonio Banderas (“Pain and Glory”), Robert De Niro (“The Irishman”), Eddie Murphy (“Dolemite is My Name”), Jonathan Pryce (“The Two Popes”), Adam

Sandler (Uncut Gems)

Tony Danza will host the awards at the Beverly Wilshire, Beverly Hills, California, on Jan. 11. The ceremony will be broadcast Jan. 19 on PBS. Annette Bening will be honored for career achievement.

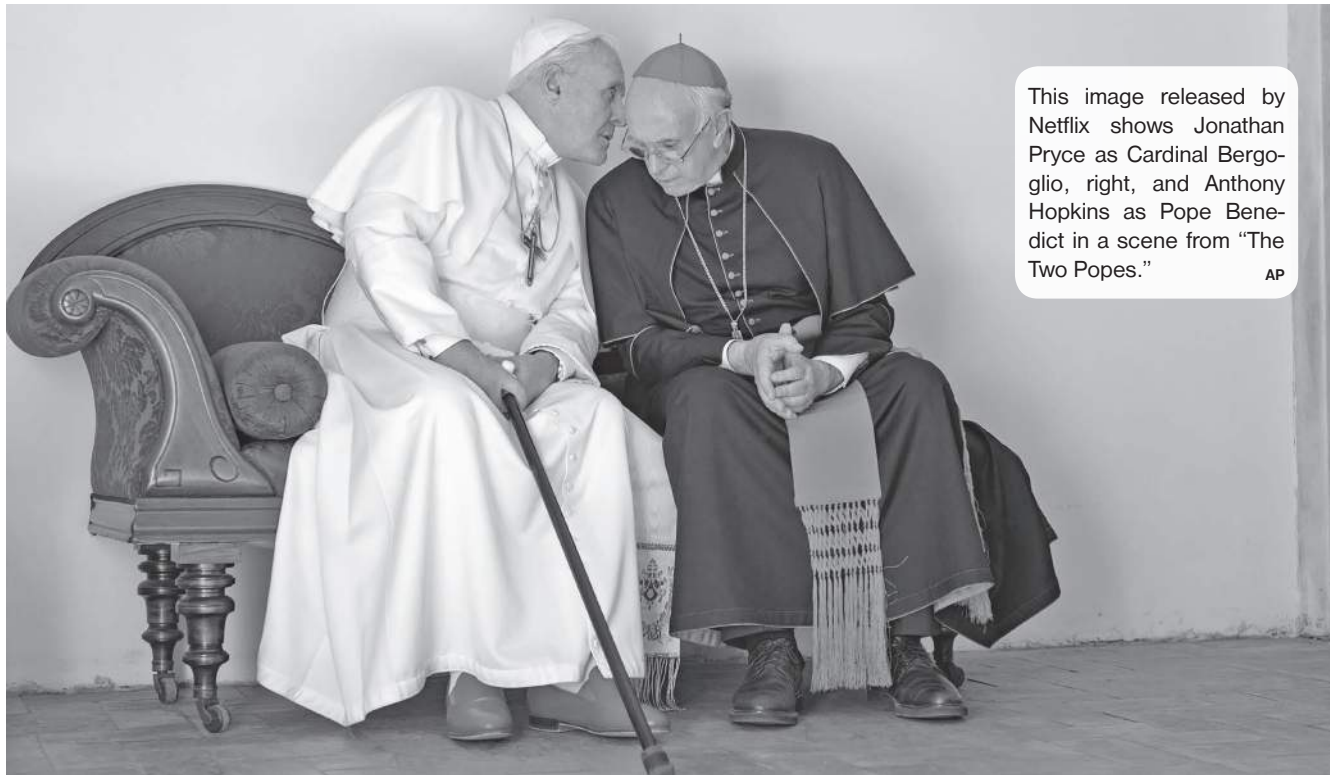
“We must continue to lift up movies made for, by and about grown-ups—the stories that speak to moviegoers 50-plus,” Heather Nawrocki, vice president and director for Movies for Grownups at AARP, said in a statement.

The nominees for best supporting actress are Laura Dern (“Marriage Story”), Nicole Kidman (“Bombshell”), Jennifer Lopez (“Hustlers”), Maggie Smith (“Downton Abbey”) and Zhao Shuzhen (“The Farewell”).

The male actor supporting category includes Jamie Foxx (“Just Mercy”), Tom Hanks (“A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood”), Anthony Hopkins (“The Two Popes”), Al Pacino (“The Irishman”) and Brad Pitt (“Once Upon a Time in Hollywood”).

Awards also will be handed out for categories such as best screenwriter, best buddy picture, best time capsule, best documentary, best foreign language film and best ensemble.

Last year, Shirley MacLaine was honored for career achievement and “Green Book” was named best picture/best movie for grown-ups. Glenn Close earned best actress for “The Wife” and Viggo Mortensen best actor for “Green Book.”



This image released by Netflix shows Jonathan Pryce as Cardinal Bergoglio, right, and Anthony Hopkins as Pope Benedict in a scene from “The Two Popes.” AP

Hearings great for cable news, less so for broadcast



David Holmes, a U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, right, watches former White House national security aide Fiona Hill, testify before the House Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2019, during a public impeachment hearing of President Donald Trump’s efforts to tie U.S. aid for Ukraine to investigations of his political opponents. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Five days of impeachment hearings were a boon to programmers and accountants at the cable news networks. For the big broadcasters, not so much.

The daytime hearing audience ranged from a high of 13.8 million on opening day to a low of 11 million on the third day, the Nielsen company said.

CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC showed every minute of the hearings, even the two times it stretched into the evening. And they were rewarded: Fox (2.5 million viewership average over five days), MSNBC (2.48 million) and CNN (1.68 million) each had more people watching the hearing than would tune in on a typical day. In the cases of MSNBC and CNN, the networks more than doubled their daytime average, Nielsen said.

This interest had residual benefits elsewhere; both the Sean Hannity and Tucker Carlson prime-time shows on

Fox had their most-watched month ever in November.

The picture is different on the broadcast networks. CBS’ average of 1.82 million viewers for the hearings was better than ABC and NBC, but it was still lower than the 3.3 million people that CBS’ top-rated daytime programming gets on a typical day. While there was time for some commercials during breaks in the hearing, there were far fewer ads than are usually run.

That reality is likely why CBS, on the hearing’s third day, gave its affiliates the option to opt out of afternoon testimony. And none of the three broadcast networks stuck with the testimony for the two times it stretched into the evening.

One saving grace for the networks is that “it’s not really costing them as much as one might think,” said Marc Kringsman, CEO of SQUAD, a New York-based advertising and marketing firm.

Taylor Kitsch plays a bad guy with nuance and special skills

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Taylor Kitsch bristles at the notion that the criminal he plays in the new police drama “21 Bridges,” is a cold-blooded killer.

He says he worked to find the “emotional beats” of his character, Ray, and tried to understand the reasons he might do some unsavory things.

That might be why director Brian Kirk and producer and star of the film, Chadwick Boseman, wanted Kitsch for the part. That, and the fact that he’s an expert at handling an automatic weapon.

“21 Bridges” is about a police detective (Boseman) leading a manhunt in New York City to find two suspects who planned to steal a haul of cocaine but stumble into a larger conspiracy and end up killing several cops.

The film, which also stars Stephan James and Sienna Miller, takes place over the course of one night, with plot twists, chase scenes and shoot-outs to satisfy action fans.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Kitsch, 38, talked about finding the nuances in playing complicated characters, working with Boseman and what it would take to get him to go back to his “Friday Night Lights” character, Tim Riggins.

AP: How did you approach

playing Ray, who many would think is a bad guy.

Kitsch: “(Director) Brian Kirk was awesome and very collaborative and freeing and kind of just gave me the responsibility, gave me the reins to just create him and that’s what I loved about it.... My job is to really root and try to figure out why he is the way he is.

AP: Ray and Stephan walk into a very scary situation, but Ray keeps his cool.

Kitsch: I know a lot of (Navy) SEALs. I’ve been trained by them, and a lot of special ops guys and everything about them I admire. The beauty of those guys is their heart rate doesn’t go up. It really, honestly doesn’t in those moments.... Ray is very, very similar, where they just take a breath and they go. And that’s fascinating to me... He’s just very calm, very directed as to what he has to do and carry out. And I love that. Because you can play the other way and go crazy and yelling, and that’s very stereotypical to me and cliché and boring.

AP: You seemed very comfortable shooting big guns. Was that because you used

them while making the 2013 military action film “Lone Survivor”?

Kitsch: My dad hunted but I never liked guns growing up. One, I think everybody should learn to at least be able to make a gun safe. “Lone Survivor” was an insane and incredible experience to be trained by the best and now I’m really comfortable with an M4 or a Glock or any handgun. I never thought I’d say that, but that tool has carried me through a lot of these things and obviously it serves for Ray.

AP: How was working with Chadwick Boseman and how involved was he in his role as producer?

Kitsch: He had a good presence on set. We were working nights and, man, I’d be sleeping if I were him because you got to get it when you can. But he would come on his off days and be there with us and just support. The best producers are the ones that you don’t feel their presence so much on set. They facilitate and let you do your thing. And he’s great. You know, very gracious guy, listens really well on and off camera. He’s very humble and just a sweet guy.

AP: You seem to be in-



Kitsch

Baby Yoda GIFs are back after 'confusion' led to removal

NEW YORK (AP) — People can send each other animations of Baby Yoda again.

Giphy, a database of the mini-videos, had been removing animated GIF files of the Star Wars character from the new Disney Plus streaming series "The Mandalorian." That led to speculation that Disney asked for this because of copyright concerns.

But Giphy is blaming "confusion" in a statement. It says it conducted a review, and Baby Yoda GIFs are back and available to share.

This undated image provided by Disney Plus shows a scene from "The Mandalorian."

Giphy says it's sorry to Disney for any inconvenience.

Giphy declined to elaborate on why it removed the GIFs. Disney referred questions to Giphy.

"The Mandalorian" is one of a handful of new series on Disney Plus, which launched two weeks ago and attracted 10 million subscribers on its first day.



Nancy Grace joins Fox Nation streaming service

NEW YORK (AP)—Former CNN mainstay Nancy Grace is signing up for a crime show on Fox Nation, an illustration of how Fox News' streaming service has evolved counter to expectations one year into operation.



Grace

Cameras will show her delivering her podcast and SiriusXM radio show, "Crime Stories with Nancy Grace," five days a week. The program is modeled after her popular television series that ran on the HLN network for many years.

"We spotlight breaking crime and justice news, help find missing people, especially children, solve unsolved homicides and analyze clues left behind," Grace said.

Fox Nation, the streaming service available for \$65 a year, will begin offering "Crime Stories" in January.

The on-demand service recently announced that former CBS News correspondent Lara Logan will host a documentary series on media bias, immigration and other issues,

and said more signings are in the works.

When Fox Nation began late last year, it was positioned as a place where potential subscribers could go if they didn't feel they were getting enough opinion programming on Fox News Channel. Instead, users were apparently getting their fill.

"In a weird way, what the traditional Fox audience wants is complementary to the channel but not more of the same," said John Finley, the Fox executive vice president who oversees the streaming service.

Perhaps the political climate has exhausted them, he said. Instead, he has found a hunger for "programming with Fox values but not necessarily politics," he said. That encompasses history, crime and lifestyle programming.

"What Made America Great," where "Fox & Friends" host Brian Kilmeade visits historical sites across the country, is one of the service's most popular programs. So is

"Scandalous," a documentary series on controversial happenings in history. Abby Horvacek is a popular host, both with the series "PARK'D" in which she visits national parks and "Ride to Work," in which she accompanies Fox personalities in a show that recalls Jerry Seinfeld's "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee," only without coffee stops and without the jokes.

NEW YORK (AP)—Showtime will be putting the spotlight on Cindy Adams, the New York Post columnist and elder stateswoman of Manhattan gossip.



Adams

The 89-year-old

OK boomer, Jill Filipovic is writing a book about you

NEW YORK (AP)—OK boomer, someone's writing a book about you.

Jill Filipovic, the author, journalist and attorney, has a deal with the Simon & Schuster imprint One Signal Books for "OK Boomer: Let's Talk: Dispatches from a Generational Divide." The publisher announced Tuesday that "OK Boomer" would look beyond the

"humorous meme" and explore issues such as student debt, healthcare and climate change. The book is scheduled for late 2020.

Filipovic said in a statement that the economic struggles of younger people were largely "because of choices our parents' generation



Filipovic

made." Filipovic, 36, added that her generation was "at a crossroads" between the world left to them and the world they desire. A CNN columnist and New York Times contributor, Filipovic is the author of "The H-Spot: The Feminist Pursuit of Happiness."

Showtime to make documentary series on gossip Cindy Adams

NEW YORK (AP)—Showtime will be putting the spotlight on Cindy Adams, the New York Post columnist and elder stateswoman of Manhattan gossip.



Adams

The 89-year-old

Adams will be the subject of a documentary series in 2021 with Brian Grazer and Ron Howard executive producing.

At her height, Adams wrote six

columns a week for the Post, appeared four times a week on New York's WNBC-TV, as well as stops on "Gerald" and E! She's known for the phrase: "Only in New York, kids, only in New York."

Adams was a found-

ing member of the TV hit "A Current Affair" and her books include "The Gift of Jazzy." And she has released her own fragrance, called "Gossip." She made her Broadway debut in 2001 as the narrator of "The Rocky Horror Show."

Netflix to keep New York City's iconic Paris Theatre open

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City's last surviving single-screen movie house will remain open, thanks to Netflix.

The streaming platform on Monday announced a lease agreement to keep the Paris Theatre open for special

events, screenings and theatrical releases.

Netflix's Chief Content Officer Ted Sarandos says in a statement that the company is "incredibly proud to preserve this historic New York institution so it can continue

to be a cinematic home for film lovers."

The theater located near Central Park shuttered its doors in August and was reopened in October after Netflix announced it will screen Noah Baumbach's new movie, Mar-

riage Story, for a limited time.

The 581-seat venue opened in September 1948 and originally specialized in showing French films.

It is known as one of the oldest art-house theaters in the country.

Girlfriend learns the secret behind man's cheap rent

DEAR ABBY: I moved in with my boyfriend, "Greg," three years ago into the tiny but very economical house he rents. It's cheaper than all other rentals in our area and allows us to save for a home of our own one day. However, after many months, I have discovered to my dismay that our landlord is the mother of his ex-girlfriend. And the ex is acting manager of the property we live on! This means that, for as long as I've lived here, Greg's ex and her mom have been in frequent contact with him and are an inescapable part of our lives.

Greg gets along fine with them and doesn't want to move because of high rents elsewhere, but I'm very uncomfortable with the awkwardness of our living situation. Am I being too sensitive, or should my boyfriend never have lived there in the first place?

UNCOMFORTABLE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR UNCOMFORTABLE: Now, now ... let's keep our eye on the goal line. Your boyfriend's objective (and yours) is to save enough money to eventually own a place of your own. His ex and her mother are a means to an end. It would be a big mistake not to recognize that they could be charging far more for your lodgings. Concentrate on that and stop looking a gift horse in the mouth.

DEAR ABBY: I recently hosted a large family for a week

in our home. On our last day together, the mother asked if she could run "a quick load" of laundry. I said OK, figuring she might be running low on unmentionables.

Abby, she did FIVE large loads of laundry and spent half of our last day together folding everything up and packing their bags for home. I wouldn't deny anyone a quick load, but I think she took advantage of me. I was very disappointed that our last day together was wasted doing laundry. Is this a "thing" now? Your thoughts, please.

HUNG OUT TO DRY IN ARIZONA

DEAR HUNG OUT: You were trying to be helpful, and the woman did take advantage of your generosity by mischaracterizing her intentions. If, however, you had other plans for the last morning of the visit, when you saw her start her second (or third) load, you should have spoken up and drawn the line.

DEAR ABBY: At a recent children's birthday party, my adult daughters were approached by a family acquaintance about getting bone marrow tested. This acquaintance told them he is dying and desperate for a donor match. My daughters were, of course, very sad to hear his story and willingly submitted to the cheek swab, but I want to get your opinion.

PUT ON THE SPOT

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

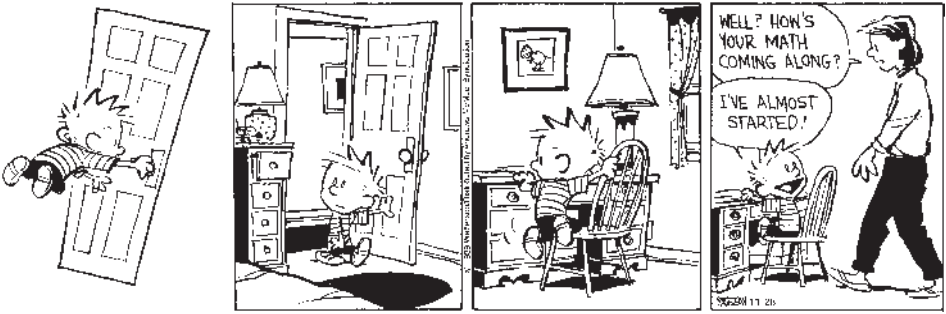
DEAR PUT ON THE SPOT: If you are hoping I will tell you that what that dying man did was wrong, I can't do that. People with a terminal illness will grasp at any straw they can find to have more precious time on this side of the sod. That your daughters agreed to be tested was generous and kind. You have raised two terrific daughters, and I applaud them.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

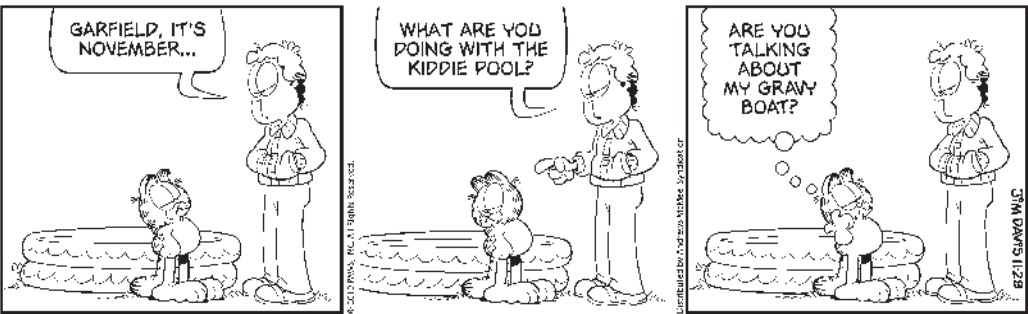
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Expan-
sive

5 Squad

9 Roman
551

12 Composer
Stravinsky

13 Mentor

14 Always,
in verse

15 Over the
moon

17 NYC
airport

18 Pueblo
structures

19 Leek's kin

21 Alien, for
short

22 Russian
ballet
company

24 Clothing

27 Crib

28 Prez's
backup

31 Tramcar
contents

32 Play a
part

33 Old Olds

34 First lady
of scat

36 "King
Kong"
studio

37 Gomer
of classic
TV

38 Bridge
call

40 Pacino
of
"Serpico"

41 Con-
fronted

43 Parcels
of
land

47 Actress
Thurman

48 "So tasty!"

51 Physi-
cian's
nickname

52 Panache

53 Fed.

54 Parched

55 Filches

56 Lip

2 On in
years

3 Without
help

4 Teams on
"Survivor"

5 Cries of
aversion

6 Fanatic

7 Rage

8 Henry
VIII's
house

9 Word
with
express
or pizza

10 Toy
block

11 Tehran's
country

16 Retrieve

20 Calendar
abbr.

22 Jollies

23 Fasci-
nated
by

24 Fawn's
mama

25 Internet
address

26 Choice
food

27 Taverns

29 Sushi
choice

30 "The
Bells"
author

35 Chest-
beating
beast

37 Braids

39 Venom-
ous viper

40 Lob's path

41 Elmer
of
cartoons

42 Cupid's
specialty

43 Metal
boxes

44 Prolonged
sleep

45 Mon.
follower

46 Taxpayer
IDs

49 "Evil
Woman"
band

50 Science
room

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-28

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Kwanten, 43; Jon Stewart, 57; Ed Harris, 69; Paul Shaffer, 70.

Happy Birthday: Simplicity will help you keep things running smoothly. Instinctively know to curb unwarranted habits and not to make offers that are unreasonable or put you in a stressful position. This year is about maneuvering your way to a better place. It's a year of peace, quiet, comfort and happiness. Make your suggestions and the changes you want to make worthwhile. Your numbers are 5, 16, 23, 29, 37, 39, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Slow down, think matters through carefully, relax and observe. Don't get into a senseless dispute with someone who is baiting you. Focus on completion, making a difference and being the best you can be. Actions speak louder than words. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Embrace change. Good alternatives are heading your way. Engage in talks, and the information you gather will set the stage for new beginnings. A partnership looks incredible, and the energy you put behind your ideas will lead to success. Romance is encouraged. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Balance, integrity and not bending to someone's demands will be necessary. Create your opportunities instead of helping someone else get ahead. Trust in your judgment, and give yourself the time you need to assess a situation before decide. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be more of an adventurer. Explore the possibilities to discover what you are capable of doing.

ing. Use your intellect to develop a unique idea that comes to mind. Collaborate with similar people, or spend time with someone you love. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Quiet pursuits are favored. Don't fight the inevitable; learn to go with the flow and follow your heart. Concentrate on what and who moves you the most. Your happiness depends on the decisions you make. Choose peace of mind. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't get sucked into emotional dilemmas or someone's drama. Get out and associate with people who are doers, accomplishes and have something to offer. You can achieve plenty if you concentrate on something you care about and want to pursue. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Set up a business meeting or get together with someone from your past. This will help you realize what's possible and how best to go about getting what you want. Make a point to control change instead of letting it control you. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Find out more about the people you need in your life to get ahead. Show interest, offer incentives and pay attention to what's important to others. You will establish working relationships that can benefit everyone involved. Romance is on the rise. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Show everyone what you are capable of doing. Use your intelligence, ingenuity and talents to assist others as well as to help yourself. Collaborating and contributing to something you believe in will lead to worthwhile encounters and future benefits. ***

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stop thinking about what you want to achieve, and start putting your plans in motion. A change at home or work will turn out better than anticipated. Don't hesitate when you should be initiating personal, physical or economic changes. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Think big, but remain moderate in all that you do. Keeping your plans doable will be half the battle. Refuse to let anyone intervene or talk you into something that has the potential to fail. Don't make an impulsive decision. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your life, financial dealings and purchases moderate. Look for a direct route to what you want to achieve. Simplicity will bring you more in return than trying to take on too much at once. ****

Birthday Baby: You are forthright, intense and commanding. You are ambitious and courageous.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	1		6		2			8		
2				5					3	
		6				4				
4									1	
	7							9		
3										5
		4				2				
8				2						7
	6		1		9		4			

Difficulty Level ★★★

11/28

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	4	7	8	3	6	5	1	2
5	8	2	7	1	4	6	3	9
1	3	6	2	5	9	7	8	4
3	7	1	6	2	8	9	4	5
8	6	4	3	9	5	1	2	7
2	9	5	4	7	1	8	6	3
7	1	3	5	8	2	4	9	6
4	5	8	9	6	3	2	7	1
6	2	9	1	4	7	3	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TIE THE KNOT AWAY

Solution: 8 letters

S Y Y T E C N A R F L O W E R
R I N N N A A C O N R P A L M
N E R O N A O N O P A I A B P
A N S A M U T I D R U C E A I
E U R O P E S L T L E T C N O
B P A L R A R Y U R E K E D D
B T E N C T P E O S A S L S E
I I I C T C S G C G N A S S X
R A O E U I N E E F P O S S U
A L S B S I G S R R L A C R T
C S A M C H T U I V L I A E L
N U C N A C I V A L I R G E N
A M A I N E A K I S S C T H N
D R E Y T R V O W S O E C T
P D A T E S A D B A H A M A S

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11/28



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Yesterday's Answer: Importance
Treasures 13 through 18 and 20 through 38 can be purchased online in time for the holidays at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6483.

STUMPED?

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**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**



Ordnance Plan and North Field Munitions Response Sites Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Findings

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers invites you to attend a public meeting Thursday, December 5, 2019 at American Memorial Park Visitor Center Theater during which the findings and recommendations of the Ordinance Plan and North Field remedial investigation (RI) will be presented. The RI was performed in accordance with the Defense Environmental Restoration program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS) to characterize munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and munitions constituents (MC), to identify and quantify associated MEC hazards and MC risks, and to provide documentation supporting a feasibility study for future remedial action(s) at the munitions response sites (MRS) if necessary. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives will be available during the meeting to answer your questions concerning DERP-FUDS and elements of the Ordinance Plan and North Field RI.

Date: Thursday, December 5, 2019
Time: 5:30 to 7:30 PM
Location: American Memorial Park Visitor Center Theater, Garapan, Saipan

For more information regarding the ongoing RI and feasibility study, please contact Project Manager Lori Wong, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu District at:

Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers -Honolulu District
Programs and Project Management Division
Environmental Branch
Building 230
Attn: CEPOH-PP-E (Lori Wong)
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
Telephone: 808.835.4090
E-Mail: lori.l.wong@usace.army.mil

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-005

SUBMISSION DATE: December 23, 2019
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“Construction of Sidewalk from Mobil Gas Station to Tanapag Bridge”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **December 10, 2019**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **December 16, 2019** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

WHATZIT Solution: Basket case

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Loaded Dodgers may trade for Red Sox's Betts



LOS ANGELES — Any team acquiring

Mookie Betts this winter needs two items in abundance: money and prospects. A wide-open contention window, an opening in the outfield, and a home in the National League—where Betts can't haunt the Red Sox directly during the season—would be added pluses.

It doesn't take an advanced knowledge of Venn Diagrams to recognize that one team sits in the overlap of all of those circles—the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Blessed with a \$200 million payroll, a perennially Top-10-rated farm system, and the need for a player to put them over the top after three straight near-misses, the Dodgers should be considered a prime destination for Betts this winter.

Could a negotiating window be used in a potential Betts trade?

If we operate on the assumption that the Red Sox will be moving the former MVP primarily for cost-controlled prospects in order to keep their payroll manageable and allow them to build for the future, then it's worth considering whom they might receive from L.A. in return. And the possibilities are tantalizing.

The Dodgers are loaded not only with prospects, but redundancy at certain positions that could make a deal more likely.

Start in the outfield. MVP Cody Bellinger isn't going anywhere, and A.J. Pollock is signed through 2022, but there's an opportunity to upgrade Joc Pederson's spot. The natural heir apparent is Alex Verdugo, a consensus top-35 prospect who hit .294 with an .817 OPS in 106 games last season.

The 23-year-old would be the perfect Betts replacement, however, thanks to a high-contact, all-fields approach at the plate, a howitzer of an arm in right, and solid overall instincts. He'd be a steep price to pay, but Betts would still represent a clear 2020 upgrade, and he'd solve a corner outfield logjam by shifting to center.

Another name to remember is catcher Keibert Ruiz. Signed out of Venezuela in 2014, all he has done since is hit, posting a .299 average and .351 on-base percentage despite consistently being one of the youngest players at each stop in the minors.

Baseball America's most recent list of L.A.'s top 30 prospects includes no fewer than three catchers in the top 10, which means that Ruiz, 20,



^{AP}
In this undated file photo, the Boston Red Sox's Mookie Betts fields the ball during a workout at their spring training baseball facility in Ft. Myers, Fla.

Series. The Mariners have not even reached the postseason since consecutive AL Championship Series losses to the New York Yankees in 2000 and 2001.

"There's no secret Seattle hasn't been to the playoffs in 20 years," Graveman said after agreeing to a one-year contract that guarantees \$2 million. "I mean, why not? So everyone knows. Everyone talks about it. I want to come into this organization and help this organization win, get to the playoffs. A franchise that hasn't won a World Series could do that. And I don't think speaking about these things should be stuff that is not spoken about. I believe that there's power in that. I believe there's power in words and things that we do."

Graveman, who turns 29 next month, would earn \$8 million if Seattle exercises a 2021 option and he pitches at least 150 innings in each season.

He has not pitched in the major leagues since May 11, 2018, for Oakland and had Tommy John surgery that July 24. Cut by the Athletics after the season, he signed a \$575,000, one-year deal with the Chicago Cubs and made a pair of three-inning minor league injury rehabilitation outings on Aug. 22 and Sept. 1.

"It was a season of growth and learning about myself and the elbow. ... Feel like the ball is coming out very well," he said. "I started picking up a baseball two weeks ago, did some light toss."

for someone more big-league ready, they could ask for right-hander Tony Gonsolin. The 25-year-old made six starts for the Dodgers and was effective, going 4-2 with a 2.93 ERA in 11 appearances. Another former college position player, he's the rare prospect to transition from reliever to starter, and he has done so with tremendous success, hitting 100 mph with his fastball and also featuring a plus splitter and curveball.

Any two of these players would make the start of an intriguing package, so keep your eyes on L.A. as the Betts rumor mill starts churning in earnest when the winter meetings open Dec. 8 in San Diego.

Graveman stays with Mariners

Kendall Graveman wants to be part of the most memorable team in Seattle Mariners history.

Seattle is the only one of the current 30 franchises that has never played in the World

Vogt moves from Giants to D-backs

Meanwhile, the Arizona Diamondbacks have signed catcher Stephen Vogt to a one-year contract with a club option and vesting options for 2021.

The team announced the deal on Tuesday. Terms weren't immediately disclosed.

The 35-year-old Vogt is a two-time All-Star with the Oakland A's in 2015 and 2016. He played last season with San Francisco, hitting .263 with 10 homers and 40 RBIs in 99 games.

Vogt will likely be the primary backup for starting catcher Carson Kelly, who had a breakout season last year after hitting .245 with 18 homers and 47 RBIs. Arizona's backup last season, Alex Avila, is a free agent.

Vogt has also played first base and outfield. Arizona's 40-man roster is now at 40 players.

Astros sign catcher Garneau

Catcher Dustin Garneau has signed a one-year contract with the Astros.

Garneau figures to be the backup to an as-yet unknown starting catcher. The Astros are currently without two of their catchers from 2019, Robinson Chirinos and Martin Maldonado, as they are free agents.

Having spent parts of five seasons in the majors with the Rockies, Athletics, White Sox, and Angels, Garneau has hit .207/.290/.343 across 381 trips to the plate. Though he showed offensive improvement last year, Garneau is known more for his work behind the plate.

Garneau joins Yasmani Grandal and Travis d'Arnaud as free agent catchers to come off the board so far this offseason.

Nats' full World Series share drops to \$382,000

NEW YORK (AP) — A full postseason share on World Series champion Washington was worth \$382,358, down from \$416,838 for Boston last year and the record \$438,902 for Houston in 2017.

The commissioner's office said Tuesday the Nationals voted 61 full shares, more than 14 partial shares and two cash awards. The Red Sox had 66 full shares, more than 10 partial shares and eight cash awards.

The players' pool was nearly \$81 million, the third highest behind a record \$88 million last year and more than \$84 million in 2017.

A share on AL cham-

pion Houston was worth \$256,030, down from the \$262,027 for the Dodgers in 2018 and \$259,722 for Los Angeles in 2017.

Full shares were worth \$144,025 for St. Louis, \$114,367 for the New York Yankees, \$37,187 for Minnesota, \$36,835 for Tampa Bay, \$33,624 for Atlanta, \$32,428 for the Dodgers, \$18,919 for Oakland and \$14,292 for Milwaukee.

The players' pool included 50 percent of the gate receipts from wild-card games and 60 percent each from the first three games of the Division Series and the first four games of the League Championship Series and World Series.

Clippers stall Doncic with rout of Mavericks



DALLAS (AP)—Paul George and Kawhi Leonard gave the young European duo from the Dallas Mavericks the best look yet at life among the elite in the Western Conference.

George scored 17 of his 26 points in the first quarter, Leonard finished with 28 and the Los Angeles Clippers took control early in a meeting of teams with matching five-game winning streaks, beating the Mavericks 114-99 on Tuesday night.

The Clippers used several defenders to end Luka Doncic's franchise-record streak of four games with at least 30 points and 10 assists, knocking the 20-year-old phenom to the floor early on a 4-of-14 shooting night. Doncic had 22 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

Kristaps Porzingis was 4 of 13, the 7-foot-3 Latvian combining with the Rookie of the Year from Slovenia to go 8 of 27 compared to 19 of 42 for the LA stars. George added a career-high six steals under 100 points for the first time this season.

"They're looking to win a championship; they played like it was a playoff game," said Porzingis, who hit a 28-footer 22 seconds into the game and another 3-pointer from the logo at center court just before half-time but finished 3 of 8 from long range. He had 15 points and 10 rebounds.

"They played aggressively and they showed us that we have to learn how to play these games. We have to bring that same intensity."

Patrick Beverley got in foul trouble as one of the defenders assigned to Doncic, who had to settle for doing most of his damage on free throws, making 14 of 16.

Beverley getting his fourth foul early in the second half just brought back Lou Williams sooner. The high-scoring reserve finished with 21 points, going 4 of 7 on 3s while Doncic missed all seven of his deep tries against the LA defense.

"That's who we are as a team," said George, who had all four of his 3-pointers in the first quarter. "We pride ourselves on defense. Offensively, we've got guys that can score the ball, but we want to make it tough on a nightly basis on whoever we're playing."

The Mavericks had taken the Southwest Division lead with a win at Houston for their fifth straight victory, and weren't too far removed from



Los Angeles Clippers forward Paul George, left, and Patrick Beverley (21) defend as Dallas Mavericks forward Luka Doncic (77) drives to the basket in the first half of an NBA game in Dallas, Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2019.

a loss to LeBron James and the Lakers that required a buzzer-beating 3 to force overtime in Dallas.

But the other expected title contenders from LA offered a dose of reality for a team looking to end a three-season run without reaching the playoffs.

Dallas was trailing by three when Doncic joined the rest of the starters on the bench in the final minute of the first quarter. By the time those five came back together in the second, the Los Angeles lead was 48-32.

The LA bench scored 16 of the 20 points during the run, with Leonard getting the other four. The NBA's highest-scoring bench finished with 44

points. Dallas, fourth on that list, scored 37 bench points, most with the outcome no longer in doubt.

"They're big, they're strong, they're highly skilled," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. "They pick you up full court and they hound you. This is a game we've got to learn from and do better next time."

Montrezl Harrell scored 12 points two nights after tying his career high with 34 against New Orleans to help finish a sweep of a five-game home-stand. Leonard had a team high-tying eight rebounds, and Williams had six rebounds and six assists.

Doncic had a third straight game without a triple-double,

the longest run without one this season for the NBA's leader in that category (seven). Dallas shot a season-low 38 percent. Seth Curry scored 13 off the bench, and J.J. Barea had 12.

Doncic committed seven turnovers in his sixth game with at least seven this season. The Mavericks had 20, two off their season high in their second game with at least that many.

The Clippers led by double digits most of the last three quarters, peaking at a 24-point lead with three minutes to go in the game. George put LA in front for good with a 3-pointer for a 23-21 lead with 4:25 left in the first quarter.

Nuggets 117, Wizards 104

Gary Harris isn't putting up big scoring numbers. It's the guard's defense that has spearheaded the Denver Nuggets' rise to the top of the Western Conference.

After another shutdown night, Harris' teammates are campaigning for him to be on the NBA's all-defensive team.

"We're not joking around with first team," Jamal Murray said. "He's been showing it. Not just one game, not just two games, but all season long."

Harris held Washington guard Bradley Beal to a season-low 14 points, Nikola Jokic had a season-high 20 rebounds and Jerami Grant

added a season-best 20 points to lead the Nuggets over the Wizards.

Jokic finished one rebound shy of his career best and scored eight points in Denver's sixth straight win.

Will Barton had 17 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, Murray added 16 points and Mason Plumlee scored 15 for the Nuggets, who are 10-1 in November and ended a three-game home losing streak against Washington.

Beal, the Wizards' leading scorer averaging 29.6 points, failed to score 20 points for the first time this season and was held to 6-for-15 shooting. He was 2 of 10 from behind the 3-point line.

"Anytime you can manage the best player on the other team, you start with that," Plumlee said. "Brad Beal's a heck of a player and he didn't get 20, 30 points."

It is a familiar theme when the Nuggets face an elite guard. Houston's James Harden scored just 27 points, 10 below his season average, and Devin Booker had just 12 when Phoenix was in Denver on Sunday night.

"That's all Gary," Grant said. "He's locking everybody up this year. He's shutting everyone down."

Denver held one of the NBA's prolific offenses to its second-fewest point total of the season. Washington entered the game averaging 119.1 points and had failed to score at least 100 points just once in 15 games. It needed 35 in the fourth to reach 100 this time.

Jordan McRae had 21 points and Moritz Wagner and Davis Bertans each finished with 14.

The Nuggets grabbed control in the second quarter, opening a 17-point lead after Washington led 27-26 early in the period. Grant had 15 points in the second and 16 in the half as Denver took a 64-47 lead into the break.

"They did a good job all night just trying to get downhill," McRae said. "I think we have to do a better job of helping each other going up in the paint, just knowing everybody has everybody's back."

The Nuggets pushed the lead to 20 points in the third quarter and after Washington closed within 14 midway through the fourth quarter, Barton converted a rare 4-point play to make it 107-89.

Kerr staying positive amid struggles, injury battles

The Golden State Warriors are extremely depleted.

In fact, coach Steve Kerr has frequently only had eight players available each night—a problem he's rarely had throughout his lengthy time in the league.

"You need bodies in the NBA, especially to get through the long haul," Kerr said. "And playing eight guys, as long as I've been doing this, 30, 31 years in the league, it seems like maybe one or twice a year you have eight guys. Maybe, because of crazy circumstances."

"So for us to be doing this almost routinely now is—

I've never seen it. So it's a testament to the group, the 'Elite Eight,' that I like to call them. The Elite Eight's doing a hell of a job hanging in there," he added.

Outside of Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson—who are both recovering from major injuries and aren't expected back for some time, if at all this season—Draymond Green has missed nine games with a finger and heel injury. Kevon Looney has been out since their season-opener with a nerve condition, and both Alen Smailagic and Damion Lee are out with an ankle injury and a hand fracture, respectively.

Only three players have appeared in all 18 games: Jordan Poole, Ky Bowman and Glenn Robinson III.

Yet even with players falling left and right, Kerr is keeping his head up. He knows he has to.

"I think it's important to keep accentuating the positives," Kerr said. "We've gotten a lot better the last few weeks. And [it's] not easy playing with eight guys ... It's kind of one step at a time, and having said all that, I've been doing this for a long time in one capacity or another and I see a lot of really positive things from this team."

Despite his positivity, though, the Warriors still aren't winning. They boast a league-worst 3-15 record, and have lost 10 of their last 11. The lone win in that stretch was a 114-95 victory against the Memphis Grizzlies last week, which Golden State immediately followed with a 48-point loss to the Dallas Mavericks the next day.

While the team isn't what it used to be, Kerr still believes positive things are coming his way.

"We're going to start winning some games," Kerr said. "We just got to keep doing what we're doing."

Rams regroup, focus on waning playoff chances



THOUSAND OAKS, Calif.

(AP)—The Los Angeles Rams still have a winning record, even if they didn't look like a winning team at any point in their humiliating 45-6 loss to Baltimore.

Sean McVay's Rams (6-5) still have playoff chances, even if they would need plenty of help—and only if they can somehow recover from their Monday night mauling.

What's clear to everyone is the team that dazzled the NFL for two seasons is nothing special this year after the Rams stumbled through the worst loss of their coach's three seasons in charge.

"That was a very, very disappointing night for our whole football team," McVay said Tuesday. "Everybody can do a better job so that we can avoid feeling like that. The nice thing is that we've got a short week, and you can't dwell on those losses long. You've got to look at what we can do a much better job of, which is a lot of things, and then we start preparing for the Arizona Cardinals. We can't allow the Ravens to beat us twice."

McVay still hasn't fixed an offense that just put up a lousy month of performances, scoring just two offensive touchdowns in November and failing to reach the end zone at all in two of the last three games. The defense that was holding the Rams together came apart when faced with Lamar Jackson, although that's the case with every team in the NFL this season.

The holiday week could feel uncommonly bleak for the Rams at their somber training complex, but their leaders will



AP
Los Angeles Rams wide receiver Cooper Kupp catches a pass in front of Baltimore Ravens cornerback Jimmy Smith during the second half of an NFL game Monday, Nov. 25, 2019, in Los Angeles.

It's difficult to pick on the Rams' defense because the Ravens are making everybody look incompetent this season, so perhaps the Rams' inept rushing game deserves the spotlight. Los Angeles ran the ball just nine times and managed only 22 yards — getting 15 of those on a single run by Todd Gurley. The Rams are down to 24th in the NFL with just 90.7 yards per game on the ground. They finished third in the league last season with 139.4 yards per game, and they were eighth in McVay's 2017 debut season with 122.1 yards per game.

Although Goff was sacked twice, his offensive line consistently provided enough time to throw. The group with three inexperienced starters and a fourth playing a new position has performed fairly creditably in difficult circumstances—but it's still not good enough, considering how the running game struggled again. The line still seems to be Los Angeles' greatest area of concern and necessary upgrade in the offseason.

The Ravens concentrated on double-teaming Aaron Donald, and the two-time Defensive Player of the Year had just one tackle all night. Donald's ineffectiveness also reflects on his teammates' inability to exploit advantages out of Donald's double teams, but the Rams would love more dominant play for \$87 million guaranteed.

remind everyone that all is not lost, even after a defeat that felt fairly definitive about their waning dreams of reclaiming their championship form.

"We obviously need some stuff to happen, but I don't think it's completely out of the realm of possibility at all," said Jared Goff, who didn't throw a touchdown pass in November. "We're still very

much in it, and we've just got to keep fighting."

The Rams still have five games to play, including four against NFC West foes — two against last-place Arizona. Los Angeles is still the first team behind Minnesota (8-3) and Seattle (9-2) in the NFC wild card race, even if the Rams aren't exactly surging toward the finish.

Yet the few Rams who

spoke to the media after the Baltimore debacle expressed confidence in their ability to be an elite NFL team again, even if their recent results suggest nothing of the sort.

"Absolutely, we feel that way," receiver Brandin Cooks said Tuesday. "Anytime we go into a game, we expect to win. The standards are high, and we've got to play to them."

Almost everything went miserably Monday night, but the Rams' corps of receivers was back to full strength and performed well when Goff got the ball to them. Robert Woods returned from a one-game absence due to a personal issue and made six catches for 97 yards, while Cooper Kupp had six receptions and tight end Tyler Higbee had five.



The PGA Tour is set to implement new pace-of-play rules early next year in an effort to speed up rounds, something that has been a growing point of concern on tour in recent years.

Among other things, the PGA Tour is planning to create a secret list of the slowest players for rules officials to pay closer attention to, according to Golf Digest.

"We're not trying to blacklist anyone," one golfer told Golf Digest on the condition of anonymity. "But it's going to be much more fair to the majority of players."

The PGA Tour's policy board "approved a number of modifications to the Pace of Play Policy", and will put them into effect after the Masters in April, per the report.

The biggest change is the shift to an individual-based system, using the secret list to do so.

PGA Tour updating pace-of-play rules

The list, according to Golf Digest, will be kept totally private—even from Tour pros. Once a golfer is on that list, "He is more likely to be timed by a rules official and would incur a one-stroke penalty for a second bad time during a round." It's not clear exactly how the list will be determined, or how players could get off the list.

The PGA Tour, per the report, is also considering adding two more rules officials at each tournament to monitor shot times more closely.

Players are currently allowed 40 seconds to hit a shot, starting when it's their turn to play "without interference or distraction." After one warning, players are assessed one penalty stroke for each following violation. Once a warning is handed out to one player, the entire group is then "on

the clock" and monitored by a rules official.

The slow-play debate rose again late last season, especially surrounding Bryson DeChambeau.

DeChambeau, who is one of the slower golfers on tour, drew immense backlash from fellow PGA Tour pros at The Northern Trust—the first of three FedExCup Playoffs events. Multiple videos of him taking more than two minutes to pace out and read shots in the second round of that tournament went viral, causing players like Justin Thomas, Ian Poulter, Justin Rose and more to criticize his play on social media.

DeChambeau, who has five career Tour wins, eventually apologized for his slow play, but later claimed he had "data" to prove he isn't the slowest player on Tour—except he

didn't share that data or explain what it was.

The PGA Tour is expected to announce its new policy officially early next year. It will also conduct an "education period" for the first three months of 2020, per the report.

"The goal isn't to move the needle on Thursday and Friday from 4:45 to 4:30 when you have 156 players in the field," a golfer told Golf Digest on the condition of anonymity. "It's just not going to happen. What we are trying to do as a Tour is pinpoint where we are lacking, where certain individuals are lacking, in pace of play."

"It's more for the betterment of everyone playing. You see your pairings and you think, 'Oh, God, I'm with that guy.' We all know who the slower players are. They're trying to

move away from that group-based timing system because, say you are paired with the same four guys throughout the year, and you get put on the clock four times and your total is five times for the year. How is that fair? I can pretty much pinpoint why I've been put on the clock those times."

Tiger leads six-man exhibition ahead of Hero

Tiger Woods will headline a six-man exhibition ahead of next week's Hero World Challenge, where players will try to hit a target from 100 yards away.

While the actual tournament rounds will begin on Wednesday in the Bahamas, the "Hero Shot at Baha Mar" will take place at 4 p.m. ET on Monday, Dec. 2. Woods will be joined by Jon Rahm, DeChambeau,

Gary Woodland, Henrik Stenson and Jordan Spieth.

All six players will hit wedges from 100 yards to a target over a pool at the Baha Mar, the tournament's host hotel, with points awarded based on proximity: 100 points for the outer ring, 200 for the inner ring and 500 for the bulls-eye. Each player will have six shots at the target, with the sixth ball worth double points.

The winners of three head-to-head matchups will advance, while in the second round the lowest score among the three remaining players will be eliminated. That will leave two players to compete in a final head-to-head challenge to determine a winner.

Woods will be a busy man next week, as he's also serving as tournament host for the 18-player event. The competition will end on Saturday, Dec. 7 in order to facilitate travel to the Presidents Cup.

2 karatedos win medals in Guam tourney

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER



Kyokushinkai Karate's Shem Japhet Bataliones and Danielle Angela Banez brought home medals from the 10th Annual Carlos Palacios Memorial Karate Tournament held in Guam last week.

Bataliones took second place honors in the Adults Men Division of the Nov. 21 competition, besting three other competitors, while Banez placed third in the Girls Advance Division, which had 10 entries. The Guam tournament was the first off-island competition for both karatedos and they are excited to return next year and have a better showing.

According to Bataliones, for a rookie in the sport that he

learned in June just this year, it was a nerve-wracking experience to compete in Guam. He, however, overcame his nerves by focusing on his training, which consisted of power, strength, speed, and endurance.

"I just thought about everything sensei Danny Banez told me and I just did what I knew and trusted in my training, that's what I focused on. I just applied what I learned throughout my whole training and I just kept using that," the 20-year-old said.

Banez, who holds a black belt for her years of training in the mixed martial art, said that she soldiered on after thinking of the support she received from her dojo and father, Danny.

"I did everything I could do. I struck my kicks and punches, and brought everything we received from our training," she said.

When asked about their preparations for the competition, both Bataliones and Banez explained that their month-long training was anything less than hectic.

Banez shared that since she and Bataliones were working and attending school, most of

their training had to be done at home and usually late at night. Bataliones added that training was very challenging since he didn't really take the sport seriously until he joined the competition.

"For me it was very intense. It was very painful because we

didn't really train with proper gear, we trained full contact. We also trained in various environments, like the beach," he said.

Banez and Bataliones also said they couldn't have done it without the help of Garrick Jordan and Felix Palacios, who guided them throughout

the competition. They also would like to acknowledge the following for supporting their first off-island tournament: Chris Biolcino, Randy Angco, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Emon Lodge 179, Tet Piamonte, Connie Quidato, and Jason Tarkong.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kyokushinkai Karate's Shem Japhet Bataliones, second left, and Danielle Angela Banez, third left, are joined in the photo by tournament director Chris Biolcino, left, and referee Randy Angoco, right, after receiving their medals during the awards ceremony for the 10th Annual Carlos Palacios Memorial Karate Tournament in Guam last week.

SCHORR

From Page 28

the other hand, got the mixed over 40 doubles crown after beating Sarka Glajchova and Martin Jambor, 6-2, 7-6 (5), and Obuse and Eric Abrogan, 6-3, 4-4 (retired). In the women's 4.0 doubles, Tan and Obuse also went 2-0, downing Marivic Dunlop and Annie Lai, 6-4, 6-0, and Kathy Bristol and Mae Shieh, 6-2, 6-1, to rule the division.

In the men's over 60 doubles, Lai and Wu won over Jeff Bristol and David Lai, 6-2, 7-5, and John Bradley and Gary Ramsey, 6-1, 6-2 to clinch the division championship. The women's 2.0 doubles play also had a round-robin format with Jim and Kumada

prevailing after defeating Ella and Sunny Kim, 7-5, 6-3, and Eun Ju Kim and Mi Hye Park, 2-6, 6-0, 10-7. Buenaventura and Dela Torre duplicated Jim and Kumada's 2-0 mark after outclassing Vickie Izuka and Teresa Tenorio, 7-5, 6-3, and Karen Buettner and Ami Miyawaki, 6-2, 5-7, 10-1, in the women's 3.0 doubles.

In the men's 4.0 doubles, the unranked Pangelinan and Lee stunned No. 1 seed Bong Gamab and Ed Javier in the finals, 6-4, 7-5. In the mixed 3.0 doubles, Annie Lai and Kazu Shintani won over Buettner and Kam Wah Kwan, 6-2, 6-1, while in the mixed 4.0 doubles, Serin Chung and Heo beat Irin Chung and Jun Wang, 6-1, 7-5, and Karen and Jeff Bristol, 6-1, 6-4.

LADY

From Page 28

played on Jan. 7, 2020.

Regular games will resume on Dec. 3 with MHS Varsity battling GCA and MHS JV,

and Mt. Carmel facing Kagman on the north court. On the south side, Agape squares off against GCA and Saipan Southern, while GCA will have its first game next week against Kagman.



KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

A Marianas High School Varsity player, right, fakes off the defense of a Grace Christian Academy player during an earlier game in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League at the MHS Gymnasium.

Trench Tech to hold free self-defense seminar

Trench Tech, Inc. is inviting female members of the community to participate in a self-defense seminar this Saturday at its gym in Garapan.

The seminar is free of charge and will be conducted by special guest speaker Monique Alvarez-Baza. The seminar will run from 2pm to 4pm and interested participants

are requested to come in their comfortable clothing (preferably leggings and tank top or shirt) and bring a water bottle.

Meanwhile, Trench Tech is still accepting registration for the The Art of War 14 Grappling Submission Challenge set for Dec. 14.



Participants can sign up in the No Gi weight classes, including flyweight (100 lbs-134 lbs); bantamweight (135 lbs-144 lbs); featherweight (145 lbs-160 lbs); lightweight (161 lbs-175 lbs); middleweight (176 lbs-204 lbs); and heavyweight (205 lbs and up). For Gi participants, men and women, may register

in the absolute white, blue, purple, and brown belts. Registration fee is \$20 per entry.

Spectators will be charged a \$5 fee at the door and cash prizes will be up for grabs throughout the event.

For more information or to sign up, text in your name and weight to 670-783-4662. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

4

From Page 28

Matansa Football Club's Philip Megino and Pia Nge-wakl are the awardees in the boys U15 and girls U16 age groups, respectively, while Kanoa Football Club's Casey Chambers will get the same recognition in the co-ed U12 division, and TanHoldings Football Club's Thaiph Austria is the recipient of the coveted award in the boys U18 category.

The awardees were selected after showing outstanding sportsmanship. After each game in the Fall season, coaches in the four age groups

had to determine the Triple J Motors Fair Play awardee and the player with the most votes gets this season's recognition.

NMIFA and Triple J, which is a major supporter of the youth league, will also honor other awardees in the fall and spring seasons in a ceremony scheduled after the FA Challenge Cup this weekend at around 4:30pm.

In the Golden Boot categories, the winners for the Fall season are TanHoldings' Kaitlyn Chavez (co-ed U12), MP United's Andrew Chung (boys U15), Shirley's' Katrina Costales (girls U16), and TanHoldings' Mark Esalan (boys U18). For the Golden

Glove awards, TanHoldings goalie Terell Hix made the winners list and will be joined by fellow club members Judy Andebor (girls U16) and Richard Waldo (boys U18), and Kanoa's Vicente Reyes (boys U15).

The division champions—TanHoldings (boys U18 and co-ed U12) and Kanoa (boys U15 and girls U16)—will also get their trophies this weekend, while NMIFA will honor the team and individual awardees from the Spring season.

Kanoa's Chambers and Merrick and Theresa Toves are the Golden Glove awardees in the co-ed U12, boys U15, and girls U19 age groups, respec-

tively, while MP United's John Bucayo (boys U18) and Southern United's Haidee Manibusan (girls U16) complete the winners list.

For the Golden Boot, three awardees are from Kanoa—U12's Paul Lizama, U16's Shairmaine Francisco, and U19's Paulynn Joyce—while MP United have two—U15's Richard Steele and Sunjoon Tenorio. In the team awards, Kanoa will get four out of the five championship trophies after ruling the co-ed U12, girls U16, boys U15, and girl U19 divisions. MP United averted a Kanoa sweep in the Spring season after topping the boys U18 age group.



**Loaded
Dodgers may
trade for Red
Sox's Betts**

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Clippers
stall Doncic
with rout of
Mavericks**

PAGE 25



28 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2019

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Schorr, Miyawaki deliver

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Robbie Schorr and Malika Miyawaki stood out in the battle of the top junior players in the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic after ruling the mixed 5.0 doubles event of the two-weekend competition.

Schorr and Miyawaki passed a tough test last Saturday after surviving siblings Carol and Sean Lee in an extended game at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts. The duo won the opening set, 6-4, but missed the sweep when the Lees prevailed in the second in similar scores. Then in the super-tiebreaker third set, Schorr and Miyawaki delivered in the homestretch, 10-8, to move a win away from topping the division.

The eventual champions returned to the Fiesta courts last Sunday and this time needed only two sets to beat Helen Kim and Ken Song, 6-0, 6-1, and clinch the doubles crown. Carol and Sean also dueled Kim and Song last Sunday and eased



their way to a 6-0, 6-2 triumph to notch the runner-up honors.

Meanwhile, the pairs of Serin Chung and Isaac Heo, Ikuko Obuse and Lydia Tan, Dong Min Lee and Roy Pangelinan, Annie Lai and Kazu Shintani, Norika Jim and Yuko Kumada, George Lai and Eddie Wu, Tan and Sam Lai, Matty Buenaventura and Maro Dela Torre, and Bin Lu and Yong Dong Su took the other doubles championships at stake in the second and final week of the decade-old competition.

Lu and Su bagged the men's over 40 doubles title after outlasting Don Castillo and Don Lacbayo in the finals, 4-6, 7-5, 10-5. Tan and Lai, on

See SCHORR on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Robbie Schorr returns to Carol Lee during their men's singles title game in the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts last Sunday.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Malika Miyawaki goes for a backhand return to Jimin Woo during their boys U18 singles match in the 10th TanHoldings Tennis Classic at the American Memorial Park courts.

4 to receive Triple J Fair Play awards



By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Four players will be the first recipients of the Triple J Motors Fair Play awards, as Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will honor the top performers in the spring and fall seasons of the 2019 NMIFA Youth League this Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

See 4 on Page 27

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Matansa Football Club's Philip Megino, second left, in action against TanHoldings players during their boys U15 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Youth League at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

Lady Dolphins, Lady Rays keep streak

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER



Marianas High School Varsity and Saipan Southern High School are still unbeaten in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League to share the lead in the competition after last Thursday games at the MHS Gymnasium.

MHS Varsity cruised to victory against Agape Christian School, while Saipan Southern outlasted Grace Christian, giving the Lady Dolphins and Lady Manta Rays similar 5-0 records and the top spot in the seven-team field. Mt. Carmel School is at second place with its 3-3 mark, followed by MHS Junior Varsity and Agape, which hold identical

2-3 slates, GCA (1-5) and Kagman High School (0-5).

The Lady Dolphins faced Agape in the second game on the north court and clobbered the Torchbearers, 31-7. Over on the southern court, GCA proved to be a challenging opponent for Saipan Southern, as the Lady Manta Rays labored through a 23-14 victory.

In other results, MHS JV swept its pair of matches last week, nipping GCA first, 14-13 before pulling off another close win over Mt. Carmel, 20-17.

The Lady Knights had a split last Thursday after downing Kagman, 16-7, while Agape also prevailed over the Lady Ayuyus, 19-6.

Meanwhile, last Tuesday's matches in the league were rescheduled due to tropical storm Kammuri and will be

See LADY on Page 27